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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Are you worried about North Korea's threats to attack Guam?

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A student is charged with wounding at least 14 at a Texas college.

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He went from house to house at dawn, gunning down 12 people.

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A Moroccan actor relishes the Satan-Obama comparisons.

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WITH NORTH KOREA MISSILE TEST 'IMMINENT'

'CNMI not under threat but precautions needed'

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, right, hands out copies of an emergency preparedness informational kit while Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other government officials look on during a briefing in the governor's conference room late yesterday afternoon. The governor said the CNMI is "not under threat" but precautionary steps are now being taken to prepare for any emergency related to North Korea's threats to attack its neighbors, including Guam.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the CNMI is "not under threat" but precautionary steps are now being taken to prepare for any emergency related to North Korea's threats to attack its neighbors, including Guam. The Obama administration calculates it is likely that North Korea may test-fire mobile ballistic missiles "at any time."

» Emergency Operations Center opens

The governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider convened their Cabinet late yesterday afternoon for an emergency preparedness briefing.

"The CNMI is not presently under any threat but what we're trying to do is have every precaution and be ready in an event that a real threat [comes our] way," Inos told officials gathered in the governor's conference room.

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Missile defense system heads to Guam

By DAVID BURGE
EL PASO TIMES

FORT BLISS, Texas—A cutting-edge air-defense unit is heading to the Pacific for what is being described as a historic mission.

About 100 Fort Bliss soldiers will deploy to Guam in the West Pacific in response to continuing threats from North Korea, said officials with the

See MISSILE on Page 4

The U.S. is sending mobile, ground-based missile-defense weapons to Guam to protect the territory from North Korean threats.

Theater High Altitude Area Defense

Purpose Intercept and destroy enemy missiles

Components Truck-mounted launcher; missile interceptors; radar; battle management, command and control, communications and intelligence units

Range 620 mi. (1,000 km)

Source: U.S. Army, globalsecurity.org Graphic: Pat Carr, Lee Hulteng

Deputy AG Alepuyo resigns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Viola Alepuyo, the deputy attorney general who became acting attorney general after then AG Edward T. Buckingham abruptly left the CNMI last year, submitted her resignation from the Office of the Attorney General yesterday.

"The time has come for me to go back to my law practice," Alepuyo said in her letter to Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, who accepted her resignation.

Alepuyo's resignation takes effect

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Local

No power rate increase assured for this month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assured yesterday that it will not increase its power rates this month.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren said the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, will kept at the same level this April.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate.

CUC last increased its LEAC rate on March 5 due to increasing fuel cost in the world market. The rate was adjusted by 7.15 percent and became $0.31878 per kWh. In February, the LEAC was at $0.29751 per kilowatt-hour charge.

"There will not be a LEAC adjustment this month. Now that the [Public Utilities Commission] is empowered again to regulate CUC, we await their guidance on changes to the LEAC, pending our next hearing before the commission," Warren told *Saipan Tribune*.

CUC's power client base at present is approximately over 14,000. CUC defines active customers as those who receive bills for services during the month.

Adjustments in utility rates usually require the review and approval of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission. Due to the Executive Branch's emergency declaration on CUC, the commission's oversight on CUC was suspended.

In the latest emergency declaration for CUC, the order does not mention any suspension of PUC's powers, Warren said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos recently restored the commission's authority but said the continued emergency declaration for another 30 days is for CUC to be able to continue employing skilled technical foreign workers in the absence of qualified U.S. citizen workers.

Meantime, CUC power division manager Gary Camacho announced yesterday that they will be assessing government and private streetlights on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Crews will remove all non-government and unregistered private streetlights from the electrical grid.

"CUC's line crews will be inspecting all the streetlights to identify those operational and non-operational and as well as whether the streetlights are registered with CUC," he said.

Camacho disclosed that there are approximately 5,000 streetlights on Saipan alone.

He said the line crew will also perform aesthetic adjustments for all streetlights to ensure that they are installed on every other pole starting from the intersection of each territorial route.

The Department of Public Works defines government streetlights as those installed on the main territorial routes or dedicated public right of ways that are registered with DPW. Private streetlights are those that do not meet this description.

According to CUC, all unregistered private streetlights that do not meet the criteria described by DPW will be removed from the electrical grid and power poles and placed at the base of the power pole from which they were detached.

CUC advises all private streetlight owners to visit CUC's office and register their existing streetlights. Once a private streetlight is registered, the customer will be charged for the reconnection and usage through the standard monthly billing process.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The families of the 1st Battalion 294th Infantry Regiment CNMI, Guam Army National Guard will be holding a candlelight vigil to offer prayers and support for CNMI soldiers as they embark in their journey to Afghanistan. The vigil will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, from 8pm to 9:15pm. A special Mass will be offered at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, at 6pm. The public is invited to join the vigil.

NATIONAL TAKE BACK INITIATIVE ON APRIL 27

'Youth, seniors vulnerable to unused prescription drugs abuse'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The youth and senior citizen populations are particularly vulnerable to the abuse of unused or unwanted prescription drugs, according to U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco yesterday.

She said prescription drugs abuse among youths has been a significant problem across the nation, yet the other of that coin is prescription drugs abuse among the elderly, the senior citizens or the *man'amko*.

Limtiaco discussed the two primary problems with unused or expired drug abuse during a press conference about the CNMI's participation in the National Take Back Initiative.

NTBI's purpose is to provide collection sites for people who want to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs.

This year's NTBI will be on April 27 from 10am to 2pm. The disposal sites will be at the Horiguchi Building's parking lot in Garapan, Rota Health Center in Songsong Village, and Tinian Health Center in San Jose Village.

Limtiaco said that in more recent studies, national statistics show that an average of over 2,000 teenagers use prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs for the first time.

"We also know that the youths who are involved in these incidents range anywhere from 12 to 18 years old," Limtiaco said.

Other studies have shown that over 17 percent of the nation's senior citizens over the age of 60 have been found to be involved in prescription drug abuse.

"This particular problem maybe as a result of two situations, one in which we have our elderly who may not be as involved or concerned about some of the day-to-day issues that they may have had in previous times," she said.

Limtiaco pointed out that there is a misconception that since medication is prescribed, it is safe. There may also a situation where the elderly may also be over-prescribed medications, she added.

Limtiaco said that prescription drug abuse among the youth can be as a result of several situations.

"We have our youth who may be experimenting for the first time. We have our youth who may be taking prescription medication as a means of escaping maybe some of the harsh realities that they are dealing with in schools or in their day-to-day lives," she said.

Limtiaco said NTBI is a national initiative all over the country at the same time on the same day.

"We will be joining forces not only with our domestic partners but all over the nation," she said. "We are very excited that we have even more partnerships this year."

Michael Puralewski, Drug Enforcement Administration resident-in-charge for Guam and the CNMI, said that no questions will be asked during the dropping off of unused or expired prescription drugs.

"I ask parents to go through their medicine cabinets, go through those baskets, whatever they have. Look for that unwanted, unneeded, unused prescription medication. Get it out of there and bring it to one of the collection locations," Puralewski said.

He said NTBI gives parents not only the opportunity to inventory what they have but also to dispose of things in an environmentally correct way.

Karen Buettner, director of hospital services, said that when a person is taking medication that is not prescribed for him or her, there are hidden or unknown dangers that are potentially there.

On behalf of CNMI law enforcement agencies, Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas thanked the U.S. Attorney's Office and DEA for inviting them to participate in this initiative.

The press conference was also attended by Customs Services director Joe Mafnas, Commonwealth Health Center's pharmacist Rodylyn Bacani, CHC psychiatrist Jeremy Richards, and Community Guidance Center's alcohol and drug counselor Herb Sablan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, second from left, announces during a press conference yesterday her office's partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Public Safety and other organizations, to assist in this year's National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative. Also in photo are Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, left, DEA resident in charge for Guam and the CNMI Michael Puralewski, and public health officials and representatives.

CUC goes online; pay your bills at www.cucgov.org

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gone are the days when customers need to fall in line to beat their payment deadline for their utility bills because the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now online—an approach that will provide some convenience to the paying public.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed yesterday that its customers can now make their payments online via www.cucgov.org.

Customers need only click on the "payment online" button and they will be directed to a secure registration page for online payments.

Warren said this online payment system has a minimal fee of $1.50.

"There is a small $1.50 charge to use this new facility, but we're confident that once our customers try the system, they will agree that the convenience, security, and immediate email transaction receipt are well worth the charge," said Warren.

CUC customers usually just line up at the agency's main office to make their payments and conduct other transactions.

With the new approach, customers can even set up automatic payments that will be very convenient when traveling off-island.

Besides making payments online, CUC patrons can also schedule appointments online with the agency's customer service and financial accounts management staff. The online appointment facility is also available at www.cucgov.org. Customers will have to click on the "appointment" button and follow instructions.

Warren told *Saipan Tribune* that the utility corporation's computer systems have already been modified to handle the new payment and appointment system, so no problems are expected in that regard.

"Our goals include minimizing waiting time in the lobby, improving the level of service received when visiting the Customer Care Center, and avoiding the need for repeat visits whenever possible," said Warren.

Because the appointment application is new for CUC, Warren is asking for everyone's patience as CUC adjust the system to best fit the needs of its customers.

Last February, CUC inked an agreement with telecommunications company IT&E to improve the agency's call center service. Among the key advantages of this contract is that customers can reach any CUC department by dialing a single, easy-to-remember number, 664-4CUC. Previously, over two dozen numbers were in use to reach various departments.

Also, a live operator now answers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except in very unusual circumstances. If all operators are busy, calls automatically go to voice mail and will be replied to as soon as possible.

CUC also recently introduced a smart-meter hardware that allows electric meters on homes and businesses to wirelessly transmit usage and other data via cell phone networks.

Fund suspends its deadline for submission of refund requests

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has suspended the deadline for active and inactive members to submit applications to withdraw their contributions, according to trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano yesterday, in response to a court order.

In the federal court's hearing on April 2, Gov. Eloy S. Inos agreed to suspend the implementation of Public Law 17-82, as amended by Public Law 18-02, pending settlement discussions and/or the court ruling on the parties' motions regarding both laws.

Public Law 17-82 allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

Public Law 18-2 compels the Fund to release up to 50 percent of members' contributions within 30 days of submitting a refund application.

Razzano explained that as a result of the governor's agreement to engage in good faith settlement talks, the court ordered the Fund to continue processing applications but not distribute refunds while settlement negotiations are ongoing.

He said the court's order, however, does not address Public Law 18-02's 30-day deadline for submitting an application to withdraw.

"In the spirit of the court's order to suspend the distribution of withdrawals, the Fund believes it is appropriate to also suspend the deadline to submit an application to withdraw," Razzano stated in his memorandum to Fund acting administrator Lillian M. Pangelinan yesterday.

Since the April 2 hearing at the federal court, many members have inquired whether P.L. 18-02's 30-day time limit will also be suspended, according to the trustee *ad litem*.

When the court issued its order, Razzano said there were nine days remaining in Public Law 18-02's 30-day deadline.

"If you are eligible to submit a withdrawal application under P.L. 17-82, as amended by P.L. 18-02, but have not yet done so, the deadline for submitting your application will be suspended until nine days after the issues relating to these public laws are resolved through a settlement; or, if not settled, nine days after the court issues a decision on the pending motions regarding these laws," Razzano explained.

He said members will be kept apprised when this nine-day period will begin.

There are about 1,800 members that have submitted applications to withdraw their contributions from the Fund. Of these applications, only over 90 actually received refunds of their contributions last year.

The Fund has a projected lifespan of only up to March 2014.

Neal is new chief prosecutor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas has appointed veteran prosecutor Shelli Neal as the new chief prosecutor of the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, San Nicolas disclosed that effective last week, April 1, he tapped Neal to lead the OAG's Criminal Division.

Neal

San Nicolas said Neal, who has been with the OAG's Criminal Division for three and a half years, is the senior prosecutor within the office.

"I look forward to her leadership at the Criminal Division," San Nicolas said.

He said he had previously asked Neal if she would like to be chief prosecutor but she initially declined.

When Neal finally agreed, San Nicolas said he immediately made the appointment.

Prior to joining the OAG, Neal was a prosecutor in Tennessee and in a couple of other states.

San Nicolas said Neal has been a prosecutor and also worked previously as a criminal defense attorney.

San Nicolas said he was only confirmed as AG in November 2012 and had to make the transition to his new position.

"You make determination as to who will be leading Civil and Criminal divisions. So this is just part of the process as I transition into this position of AG," he added.

San Nicolas said that former chief prosecutor Peter Prestley has been assigned to the Civil Division and is now handling a couple of agencies and has been given other duties and responsibilities.

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Senate confirms DPW secretary, MPLT board trustee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday the governor's nominations of Martin Sablan as Department of Public Works secretary and former senator Maria Frica Pangelinan as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees.

Senators confirmed both by a vote of 8-0 each.

Sen. Frank Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said in the panel report recommending Sablan's confirmation that there were legitimate complaints submitted during public hearing on the nomination.

But he said these complaints pertaining to DPW job assignments, disciplinary actions, and termination must be submitted to the Civil Service Commission or other appropriate forum.

Sablan, meanwhile, said that DPW is working with Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and other lawmakers in coming up with legislation that would further tighten the parameters for filing procurement protests "so as not to unnecessarily delay" projects.

The newly confirmed DPW secretary was referring to some $6 million worth of federally-funded DPW projects that are under protest—the estimated $2 million Saipan traffic light system upgrade and almost $4 million Cross Island Road Improvement Project Phase II-B.

In yesterday's Senate session, concerned citizen Richard Hofschneider asked senators to hold off acting on Pangelinan's nomination to the MPLT board, saying the nominee has "conflict of interest."

Hofschneider said Pangelinan is a member of a group that is pushing for changing Article 12, or the provision in the NMI Constitution that restricts ownership of land only to people of Northern Marianas descent.

Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) and Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), along with other senators, said Hofschneider's concerns were discussed during a public hearing on Pangelinan's nomination, adding that these were two separate issues. Hofschneider was not able to attend the public hearing on Pangelinan's nomination.

Pangelinan later said as MPLT board trustee, their task is to ensure "careful investment of revenues derived from public lands; it has nothing to do with Article 12."

"We're not managing public lands. Public lands is owned collectively by the people of the CNMI and we're responsible to make sure that those funds that come to MPLT are invested and we are held to very strict standard of fiduciary care and fiduciary care is in itself a very straightforward responsibility," she said.

She added that she will continue to be a member of the Citizens for Changer of Article 12.

"I'm still very passionate about that because I believe that individual [land] ownership must be decided by individual themselves. …The policy for Article 12 should be eliminated. We should really have policy for public lands…that we should be protecting," she added.

CNMI

From Page 1

The CNMI Office of the Governor will issue information when there is any change in the situation.

Marvin K. Seman, special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said the CNMI's Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill opened at 1pm yesterday.

"[This is] for just planning and operational purposes, to track all the events that's going on. But that does not indicate that there is any threat. It just allows us to monitor the situation more closely and to allow us to disseminate information quickly to the community," Seman said.

Seman's main message is for the public to "stay calm" but people are encouraged to stay alert and monitor the news.

He also said the "best thing to do is just to stay in place" if and when something happens, whether it be inside your home, in your office or in your car—"until an all clear" is out.

"We are trying to make sure we get those information as specific as possible whether to the islands to the south or to the north of us. So when we do issue out an emergency alert, it's because we have an imminent threat here. Not all launches are necessarily a threat to the CNMI but the ones that do pose a threat to the CNMI or neighboring territory, we will be advising through the governor, as well as the community right away on the course of action," he said.

The governor and Seman made it clear that all official communications and notices related to any threat will be coming out of the Office of the Governor.

"Based on national news and open sources, it's imminent, it's at any time, but like I mention, it doesn't necessarily mean that the CNMI is under threat. The activity is there, either internally or within just their region and not necessarily specific target through any of the U.S. territory," he said.

North Korea ratcheted up its threats to attack U.S. bases including those in Japan, Hawaii, and Guam. The CNMI's closest neighbor is Guam, which is home to U.S. naval and air bases in the Western Pacific.

Seman said if any threat is imminent, the government will get information out to the public in the soonest possible time including radio and television bulletins.

He said the government has been working with two major telecommunications provider in the CNMI, IT&E and Docomo, to see whether mass text messaging could be done to disseminate information.

A resident of Gualo Rai working on Capital Hill said yesterday that she is not worried "but I am watching the news like CNN to see what's going on."

"Prayer is our most important protection. We should pray that nothing will happen," she said, as she headed home after a day's work yesterday.

During yesterday's briefing, Seman distributed a four-page document that spells out steps people should take to prepare themselves and their family for emergencies.

"Stay calm. Use common sense. Make a plan. Follow family safety plan. Make a kit. Make sure it has supplies. Know what to do. Practice and know how to respond correctly," are among those in the informational material put together in coordination with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Guam Homeland Security, and other agencies.

More information will be posted on the CNMI Homeland Security website, www.cnmihomelandsecurity.gov.mp.

Seman said that Homeland Security has also been meeting with public and private schools as well as other agencies, to give them a heads up on things they need to do should an emergency exist.

Seman also answered questions of Cabinet officials, including the specific type of threat the CNMI could expect from North Korea and ways to get alert notices out to the public at the soonest possible time.

Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, for example, asked whether there's assurance from the U.S. military that it can help evacuate people in the CNMI.

Seman said, "The military is providing every possible resources out there to defend the territories, from the South Korean area to the different stations within Japan and there's multiple layers of defense all the way down to Guam."

"The defense system that is there in Guam right now has an overreach over the CNMI. So there [are] multiple layers in the event that something does fall through. As we have been mentioning, all it takes is just one incident but we are planning for those contingency," he said.

Seman added that preparations cover Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and other islands.

He said it will be logistically "very challenging" to evacuate 52,000 people from one place to another.

Division of Environmental Quality Director Frank Rabauliman asked whether the CNMI has the needed equipment or system to respond to emergencies, and whether assessment of this capability has been done.

Seman said there has been assessment, since the March 2011 tsunami in Japan.

"We have been updating our equipment list. …We understand there are equipment limitations in the CNMI but it doesn't mean we don't have that capability. …There are federal partners here, military partners that have those and they will come into the unified coordination group to provide every possible resources to address the situation, whether it be radiological or any other threat," he added.

The CNMI has worked with federal authorities to come up with a contingency plan. The CNMI also welcomed the Pentagon's announcement that it is sending ballistic missile defenses to Guam. The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense is a sophisticated anti-missile defense system that should be arriving on Guam in the coming weeks as one more precautionary move to strengthen regional defense posture.

In Guam, Gov. Eddie Calvo also convened their Emergency Operations Center yesterday.

A press release from the Guam Department of Homeland Security said the U.S. military has assured that any ballistic missile aimed at the U.S., its territories, or allies will be intercepted.

Admiral Samuel Locklear III, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, said the U.S. will not automatically intercept just any missile launched by North Korea, but will intercept those aimed at or expected to land in the U.S., its territories, or allies.

Locklear, the top U.S. commander in the Pacific on Tuesday called repeated North Korean violations of U.N. Security Council resolutions forbidding the "building and testing" of long-range ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons "a clear and direct threat to U.S. national security and regional peace and stability."

"A major conflict in Korea could have unpredictable, long-term, and far reaching impacts due to the central location of the Korean peninsula in Northeast Asia and the vital importance of Northeast Asian trade to the global economy," Locklear told the U.S. Senate Armed Services hearing.

MISSILE

From Page 1

32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss.

These soldiers will operate and support what is being called the latest in Army missile-defense technology—the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system or THAAD.

The Department of Defense announced last week that a THAAD system would be going to Guam in the next few weeks, but details were not released.

This will also be the first time a fully operational THAAD unit will be deployed in an actual operation, instead of just a test, officials said.

Officials with the 32nd AAMDC, which includes the THAAD, declined to say exactly when members of Alpha Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th Air Defense Brigade will be leaving.

But they will stay in Guam as long as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel wants them there, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Fallin, THAAD planner with the 32nd AAMDC.

Guam is a territory of the United States, "so we are defending the homeland," Fallin added.

Last week, Hagel said the North Koreans have threatened the U.S. military base on Guam, U.S. allies Japan and South Korea, Hawaii, and the U.S. West Coast.

"This is the first operational deployment, so they are ready," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan Lee, a THAAD life-cycle manager who serves as a liaison between the Army and the defense industry on the THAAD. "They've been trained, certified and are ready to execute this mission.

"It's 20-plus years of design, testing and development all coming to fruition with this deployment," Lee added.

This same unit has twice gone to the Pacific before for tests, Fallin said. In October, they successfully shot down a medium-range ballistic missile during an exercise in the Marshall Islands, which are in the northern Pacific Ocean.

This unit's testing record has been perfect, Fallin said.

"They are the best of the best," he said.

The successful test in October prompted Brig. Gen. James Dickinson, commander of the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, to hand out 14 medals to soldiers who performed particularly well in the exercise.

Alpha Battery has been training for this mission since the unit was activated in 2007, Fallin said.

The Army has two fully operational THAAD battery units and both are stationed at Fort Bliss. A third unit has been activated here and will begin training later this year.

The THAAD is a land-based missile defense system that includes a truck-mounted launcher, interceptor missiles, tracking radar and an integrated firing control system.

It is designed to eliminate missile threats traveling inside and outside of the atmosphere. It is also designed to be used in a joint environment, meaning with other branches of service.

ALEPUYO

From Page 1

on April 19.

Alepuyo said she has clients with cases that were put on hold as she addressed the crisis at the OAG and that they have been patient as she served as acting AG and deputy AG.

"I will always remember the hard-working attorneys, investigators, and staff at the OAG. I wish all of them the best in their careers," she said.

Alepuyo was named acting AG soon after then governor Benigno R. Fitial announced on Aug. 13, 2012, that he had accepted Buckingham's resignation as AG.

The announcement came a little over a week after Buckingham left the CNMI despite being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Fitial asked Alepuyo to step in "to provide stability and restore integrity" at the OAG.

As acting AG, Alepuyo said she discovered that the OAG had almost a half million dollar deficit; the Attorney General Investigative Unit had been disbanded; and many seasoned attorneys had left the office.

To address the crisis, Alepuyo said she immediately implemented cost-saving measures and worked with the Department of Finance and Office of Management and Budget to find alternate funding sources to bring back the OAG into compliance with a balanced budget.

Alepuyo also worked with the Guam Office of the Attorney General and the National Association of Attorneys General for the needed training of new attorneys at the OAG.

Alepuyo said she reinstated the Attorney General Investigative Unit, "a welcome and much needed resource for attorneys as they prepare for trials."

In December 2012, Alepuyo recommended San Nicolas to Fitial to be the CNMI's new attorney general. San Nicolas was subsequently nominated and confirmed by the Senate.

Alepuyo then took on the role of deputy AG at San Nicolas' request to provide for an orderly transition as he familiarized himself with the OAG.

In an interview yesterday, San Nicolas said that Alepuyo was instrumental in handling the budget shortfall in fiscal year 2012. As a result, the OAG came into fiscal year 2013 without a deficit, he added.

San Nicolas said that Alepuyo was also instrumental in the training that was provided to the OAG and also gave a lot of morale support to the staff and attorneys.

"I'm saddened by her resignation. I wish her all the best as she re-enters private practice," San Nicolas said. "It's been an honor to serve as an AG with her as deputy AG."

'90 percent of medical referral cases due to NCDs'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The bulk of patients referred for medical treatments on- and off-island suffer mainly from non-communicable diseases, which Division of Public Health director Roxanne Diaz described as a real crisis and emergency in the Commonwealth.

Of the more than 8,000 referral clients in 2009 through 2011, she revealed that over 7,000 are confirmed NCD cases, which translates to 90 percent.

Data show that there were a total of 8,480 patients referred from 2009 to 2011. Of this number, 67 percent totaling to 5,641 are patients from Rota and Tinian who are referred to Saipan, while 33 percent or 2,839 patients were referred to off-island medical facilities.

Saipan Tribune learned that the total cost for all these medical referrals in a three-year span is $19.5 million—all shouldered by the cash-strapped government.

A non-communicable disease is a medical condition or disease that by definition is non-infectious and non-transmissible among people. NCDs may be chronic diseases of long duration and slow progression, or they may result in more rapid death such as some types of sudden stroke. They include autoimmune diseases, heart disease, stroke, many cancers, asthma, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, osteoporosis, and more.

Based on the records of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, there is an alarming mortality rate in the Commonwealth due to NCDs. The agency recorded 90 deaths in 2010 alone due to non-communicable diseases, with the top killers being cancer (three deaths); heart disease (21); stroke (19); pneumonia (16); and sepsis (11).

In her latest report to the CHCC board, Diaz disclosed that seven out of every 10 deaths in the CNMI are cause by NCDs. She also quoted data from the CNMI Nutrition Survey, which show that 45 percent of 7- to 10-year-olds on island are obese or overweight.

There is also an alarming growth of dialysis patients in the public hospital due to NCDs. As of April 5, there were 106 dialysis patients at the Commonwealth Health Center.

In fiscal year 2011 alone, the agency spent $4.5 million for these patients—an amount that Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta said is way beyond the corporation's budget of only $1.9 million in fiscal year 2011.

According to Diaz, the best route to address NCDs for now is to introduce tax hikes on tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy food items that will curb people's behavior.

"NCD is really a crisis and an emergency for us. It is killing our people and impacting our children," said Diaz, adding that the corporation is closely working with the Legislature to pass the Healthcare Impact Tax Bill, which is now pending at the committee level.

The legislation aims to tax tobacco 150 percent ad valorem; 70 percent ad valorem for alcohol; and 70 percent for sugar-sweetened beverages.

Based on estimates, the bill if passed into law will generate approximately $11 million a year, a portion of which can be used to address NCDs.

Diaz pointed out though, that despite the bill's promise of good revenue, it's the ultimate objective of the corporation to curb behavior to reduce cases of NCDs. She described revenue generation as just a "short-term" approach for the corporation at this time.

Diaz said the corporation will recommend some amendments to the bill and will continue to conduct education outreach activities regarding the legislation and the impact of NCDs.

WALKATHON SUPPORTER ARC

J.D. Tenorio, emergency services director for the American Red Cross, second left, receives a check from Marianas Health Services employees George Pangelinan, left, Naomi Ada, second right, and Evelyn Pangelinan at the MHS building in San Jose on Tuesday, April 9. The donation supports ARC's 27th annual Walkathon, scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at the 4-H Building in Susupe.

Inos: 2 CPA board members out, DLNR secretary stays

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos accepted yesterday the courtesy resignations of Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors members Manuel P. Villagomez of Tinian and Concepcion O. Igisomar of Saipan. The governor immediately nominated a new CPA board member, Frances C. Mafnas, to represent Saipan.

» 1 new CPA board appointees

Inos, at the same time, is keeping Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios on, declining his courtesy resignation.

"I am appreciative of the governor's decision. We will continue to work hard to bring back the department's services to where they should be," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after a homeland security briefing on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

These are among the latest decisions that the seven-week-old Inos administration has made as part of an ongoing agency performance review and reorganization.

Inos accepted Villagomez and Igisomar's courtesy resignations yesterday.

"Lt. Governor [Jude] Hofschneider and I appreciate their contributions during their many years of service on the CPA board. [The] Lt. Governor and I will be taking a look at potential individuals for the selection of a new board member to represent Tinian," the governor said.

Inos then appointed Mafnas, and sent her name to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Mafnas' appointment, along with the recent appointment of former senator Thomas P. Villagomez, requires the Senate's advice and consent. On Tuesday, the governor also did not accept the courtesy resignation of Fermin Sakisat, so he stays on as a CPA board member along with others that the governor has kept.

If confirmed by the Senate, Mafnas will serve the remainder of an unexpired four-year term that will expire on Feb. 17, 2015.

Inos said his administration is "confident that her [Mafnas] many years of service at CPA will prove beneficial in her new capacity on the board."

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Public Notice – Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting beginning Friday, April 12, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Call to the Audience

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
- A. CEO Report: Implementation Plan of CMS Plan of Correction, MPLT Loan, & FY 2014 Budget
- B. Director of Public Health Report: NCD Program Outcome
- C. CFO Report: Corporate Finances

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- A. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CEO RECRUITMENT

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OLD BUSINESS
- A. CEO Recruitment Plan
- B. Board Resolution re: Health Care Impact Tax
- C. FY 2014 Budget

VIII. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION
- A. CEO Recruitment Plan

IX. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Next Meeting
- B. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 236-8756

Rota, Guam delegations to arrive for Flame Tree Arts Fest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegates from Rota and the neighboring island of Guam have confirmed their participation in next week's 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, according to the festival's organizing committee.

Executive director Angel S. Hocog of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture said that the Guam delegation will be an addition to the visiting artists and performers from Kiribati and Chuuk, which will also take part in the three-day festivities.

The 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is scheduled on April 19 to 21 at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe.

Hocog is encouraging the community to extend a warm welcome to off-island festival participants.

Hocog said it is a great honor for the CNMI to host guests from Kiribati, Chuuk, and Guam to share their distinctive indigenous cultures and traditions, enabling the public to have a profound understanding of other island communities within the region.

"Through the years, the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival has become a celebration of the artistry and ingenuity not only of our local artists but also talents from other island nations. The strong relations that the Arts Council has nurtured with neighboring islands in the Pacific will enable the region to collectively promote, preserve, and perpetuate our valuable heritage," he said.

Hocog noted that visiting delegations will fly to Saipan and pay for their own airfare just to take part in the biggest outdoor arts festival in the Marianas.

"In return, we will demonstrate to our festival guests our Hafa Adai spirit and island hospitality in a modest reception to be attended by our own dignitaries," he said.

Additionally, each of the off-island participants will receive a department gift bag from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Arts Council is a division of DCCA.

Hocog said the gift bag will contain giveaways and promotional items contributed by partner agencies, including the Division of Youth Services, and corporate sponsors like IT&E.

For more information, visit the Council on Capital Hill next to the post office or call 322-9982 or 83.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee smile for the camera following their meeting on April 8. The three-day event, slated for April 19 to 21, will feature delegates from Rota and Guam in addition to the contingent coming in from Kiribati and Chuuk.

1st Texas Hold'em tourney is a go

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan announced Tuesday that it will move forward with the 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament.

» Rotary mulls increasing prize money

As this developed, Rotary vice president Laila Boyer said the organization is also looking at allowing rebuys and add-ons to increase the prize pool and the funds to be raised during the event.

The 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament, slated for April 20 next Saturday, is the first of its kind in the history of poker in the Marianas region. The event will have a $200 buy-in per player for a chance to win $12,000 and the champion bracelet to be crafted by local artist Vincent Torres.

Boyer said at the Rotary meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan that she and past president Alex Sablan are working out the tournament structure and rules, including the rebuys and add-ons, which the two have consulted with other Rotary officers.

"The idea is to generate more dollars. Generally in a tournament, you would close off the ability to re-buy, which is to buy-in when you're completely out of the tournament," explained Sablan.

According to Sablan, they can allow a player to re-buy for another $200 in exchange for 10,000 chips or just add-on wherein a player can get 2,000 chips for $40.

"We could allow for both to happen," he noted.

With either of the two options, the prize pool will increase.

"I think it would only be fair that if we collect more proceeds because we get people to buy-in, we dedicate a percentage of those proceeds to the pot money," he added.

Should the Rotary allow rebuys and add-ons, Sablan said they would need volunteers to pick up the cash and deliver the chips to players during the tournament.

The Rotary is expected to decide on the recommendation today.

Boyer urged interested individuals to register and buy their tickets to play in the 2013 Pacific Texas Hold'em Tournament.

"Slots are running out quickly," said Boyer, adding that they are expecting players from Tinian to participate in the event.

The 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament is sponsored by Bacardi, Budweiser, Century Hotel, Fiji Artesian Water, Marianas Variety, Marpac, Microl Toyota, Power 99, and Saipan World Resort.

For more information, visit www.saipanrotary.com or email saipanrotary@gmail.com.

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PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) UNITS REGULAR PICK UP TRUCKS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of two (2) unit's regular pick-up trucks, standard transmission, and 4 cylinder engines with air conditioning. All other specifications are as per factory installation.

The proposal shall attach a factory warranty and must be able to provide 2 years maintenance and service agreement for the two (2) vehicles. Proposers shall guarantee delivery of these vehicles to CPA within 120 days from closing date of this proposal and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of two (2) regular pick-up trucks. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, April 26, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposal shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO — 04/9/13
Executive Director — DATE

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
DH Co., Ltd.

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. DH Co., Ltd is proposing to operate ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) outdoor activities with parking spaces. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and will be situated on Lot# 043 L 118 in Ladder Beach area, zoned as Rural.

Date: **April 18, 2013 Thursday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 17, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting
The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 ☒ e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of March 21, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application #2011-6114. DH Co., Ltd is proposing to operate ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) outdoor activities with parking spaces. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and will be situated on Lot# 043 L 118 in Ladder Beach area, zoned as Rural.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.
1. Update on the Zoning Law of 2013

E. New Business
1. Discussion on Zoning Overlay Districts
2. Office operations & financial reports

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

MHS to launch full band; Rotary donates to glee club

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School Fine Arts Program is scheduled to launch the MHS Dolphin Band during this school year's graduation.

Program chair Harold Easton made this announcement at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday, saying the event will be a "very interesting musical opportunity" with the combined performance of the full band and the MHS Chorus.

"The band is moving right along at Marianas High School. They have a small band and it's already working. They expect the full band to be unveiled at graduation this year," Easton told Rotarians.

Easton said the decision to form the band was supported by enough interest from the students, prompting the school to come up with several show choir classes to provide training to the new ensemble.

He said the band, along with the MHS Chorale and Glee Club, are under the MHS Fine Arts Program, which is "not as well-known across the island as we would like it to be." The program includes classes on art, video production, music, drama, and speech.

"What's very unique about this program is that the activities are all captained by volunteers from the community who are non-PSS employees," said Easton. Among these volunteers are Glee Club director Paul Dujua and Chorale director Ruthie Fruit.

"We're able to maintain an ongoing Fine Arts program despite the economic conditions [that] confront all of us here," he added.

Easton recounted that the program was initiated sometime in 2009 when several students who were part of the Friends of the Arts Chorale recommended that they keep the group going.

"We have a policy that when students want to do something and they're really serious about it, we support it and provide as many of the services as we possibly can," he added.

Meanwhile, the MHS Glee Club was created in spring 2010, inspired by the namesake musical television show at that time.

Easton revealed that over 300 students are now involved in this relatively new program, including those who perform in activities off-campus.

He said these students are earning a name for themselves through their performances within and outside the Commonwealth.

MHS Chorus, composed of members of the show choir and the Glee Club, is now on its third year of being invited to perform national anthems in events such as the Veterans Day and Memorial Day celebrations. The Chorale also sings at DFS generally every last Sunday of the month. On the other hand, the Glee Club has won twice in a row at the Annual Tumon Bay Music Festival and competed at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"Hopefully, the community is enjoying our work as much as we do," said Easton.

Tuesday's meeting saw the MHS Glee Club perform for the Rotarians, who in turn presented a $250 donation to support the young group's endeavors. Rotary president Pete Shilling praised the MHS Glee Club's members for their talent, poise, and self-confidence.

"These are the young people that will have a really bright future and we need to do everything we can to support programs like the MHS music program," added Shilling.

Easton said the Rotary's donation will be used for the Glee Club's competition trips, the next of which is the Thespian event in Nebraska this June. Members of the Glee Club will be joined by students from other public and private schools on island.

"We're always thankful for the donations we receive. PSS helps us as best as they can but we have to do a lot of our own fundraisers. Getting some fundraising events and donations really, really help us a lot to maintain our programs," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Easton also announced that they plan to hold a fundraising concert, the date for which has yet to be finalized. He urged the public to support the students and their activities.

"It's always nice to have the community's support and to be able to show the community what the kids can do and provide some entertainment," added Easton.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marianas High School Fine Arts Program chair Harold Easton, third right, holds the $250 check donation from the Rotary Club of Saipan during the club's Tuesday meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan. Also in photo are, from left to right, Rotary secretary Richard Cody, MHS Chorale director Ruthie Fruit, Glee Club director Paul Dujua, Rotary president Pete Shilling, and vice president Laila Boyer.

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USCG medivacs 2 cruise passengers from A. Samoa

U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. CASEY CORPE

Two patients are taken off an HC-130 Hercules airplane and transferred to awaiting ambulances at Air Station Barbers Point, in Hawaii, after a long-range medical evacuation from American Samoa, April 9, 2013. The two American patients, a 91-year-old man with a hip injury and an 82-year-old woman with an internal illness, were disembarked from a cruise ship in American Samoa where they were met by the Hercules aircrew for transport to Honolulu.

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard successfully conducted a medical evacuation of two elderly cruise ship passengers from American Samoa to Honolulu on Tuesday.

The Coast Guard was notified that two passengers aboard the cruise ship *Star Princess* had suffered two unrelated injuries, Monday. The Coast Guard flight surgeon determined that medical evacuation would be the best option due to the medical needs of the patients. One passenger was a 91-year-old man; the second was an 82-year-old woman.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Air Station Barbers Point was launched at approximately 2pm Monday. Medical staff from Kalawao Rescue flew aboard and provided care during the approximately 10-hour return flight.

The 14th Coast Guard District encompasses an area of 12.2 million square miles of the Central and South Pacific. Coast Guard aircraft based in Hawaii frequently travel thousands of miles in response to search and rescue and other calls for assistance. The HC-130 Hercules is scheduled to be replaced by the HC-130J, which will bring increased capabilities to Coast Guard response across the Pacific. ***(USCG)***

Navy reservists speak to Guam HS students

By SHAINA MARIE SANTOS
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA MARIE SANTOS

Electronics Technician 1st Class Fernando Gomez, left, and Operations Specialist 2nd Class Terrence Smith, Navy reservists attached to USS *Frank Cable*, talk to students about their experiences in the Navy during a community relations project at Simon A. Sanchez High School in Yigo, Guam, April 8. The reservists are on Guam to assist in repair of submarines.

SANTA RITA, Guam—Twelve U.S. Navy reservists attached to USS *Frank Cable* shared their experiences in the Navy with students at Simon A. Sanchez High School in Yigo, Guam, on April 8.

Lt. David Meland from Expeditionary Maintenance Group Juliet said their goal was to share their knowledge, encourage them to make good decisions and show them what the Navy is about.

"It's important to show that the Navy can do more than just Navy things," he said. "We can go out and support society and people and show them that we're more than just a military."

Meland and his counterparts discussed their experiences in the service including areas they've traveled to, different career opportunities within the Navy and ways students can serve their country.

SSHS principal Beth Perez appreciated the sailors for coming in and speaking to the students.

"Any time we get visitors coming in from the military, we really embrace their partnership," she said. "There is a variety of information I think [sailors] have. The wealth of experience, knowledge and the skills that they've learned through their career I think is very important for our students to know that they need to start thinking about their post-secondary plans. They're bringing in real-life experiences and we're hoping that our students will just gravitate to that information [and] use it toward their future plans."

Naval Operational Support Center Meridian Operations Specialist 2nd Class Terrence Smith said as a reservist, he hoped to be able to relate to students to answer their questions.

"Because of the fact that I have the experience in the military that is helpful, I think, me being a civilian is also helpful, so me bringing the two together, definitely, if they have any questions I can better relate to what they have to say and they can relate to me," he said.

Reservists from several detachments are on Guam to assist in maintenance of incoming submarines.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 11, 2006

Fund's debt with health providers may shoot up

The NMI Retirement Fund's debt with health providers may increase three-fold if it is not settled before June 30, when the Fund's contract with third party administrator Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral expires. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said yesterday that, excluding the $7 million debt with the Commonwealth Health Center, the Group Health Insurance program owes HPMR $2.7 million for billings charged by health providers-hospitals and health centers-in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S mainland. The $2.7 million is the discounted amount obtained through HPMR.

MLK Day in the NMI—at last!

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will sign today a House bill that would establish a Martin Luther King Day in the Commonwealth. House Bill 15-37, once enacted, will become Public Law 15-4. It was passed by the House of Representatives on March 6, 2006 and by the Senate three days later. The measure will make Martin Luther King Day-commemorated on the third Monday of January-a legal holiday in the Northern Marianas. But the number of legal holidays will remain at 14, as the bill will combine Commonwealth Day and Covenant Day into one holiday. The day will be called Commonwealth Covenant Day and observed on the current Covenant Day, March 24. Commonwealth Day will no longer be observed on Jan. 9.

April 11, 2007

Hundreds camp out to file taxes

Although disappointed by the failure of the government to release their rebates on time, hundreds of CNMI taxpayers are still taking considerable time to line up and file their income tax returns before the April 17 deadline. "People are camping out here. They come here as early as 5am to 6am to be the first in line. When I arrived at 8am, everybody else was here. There's plenty of people," said Isabelle Piyalmai, who was holding a No. 47 printed on a yellow paper. She was one of the many who patiently waited for their turn to enter the tax assistance center at the Revenue & Taxation Division Office at the ground floor of Joeten Dandan building. According to the crowd, the division started distributing priority numbers in colored slips-red, green, yellow, and then pink-in the morning. Customers get their numbers based on their time of arrival. A division staff said 100 people are served for each batch or color. This means that Piyalmai, with her yellow No. 47, was the 347th customer that morning.

Another GOP split imminent?

Some GOP members in Precinct IV are threatening to block any nominations to be submitted by party's current leaders. According to the group led by Luis Q. Kapileo, the NMI Republican Party's board of directors was elected in violation of party bylaws. Thus, any actions taken by the board are illegitimate. When reached for his comment, GOP president Thomas B. Pangelinan refused to make any statement. "I don't have the time nor the inclination to respond to those things," he said yesterday. In an interview Monday, Kapileo said the party has neither a board of directors nor a set of officers because the party election of December 2006 was held improperly.

April 11, 2008

Census shows poorer NMI

The average income each person makes in the Northern Marianas dropped by a third between 2000 and 2004, according to a census report released yesterday. The census, conducted in the last quarter of 2005, found that the CNMI per capita income plunged to $6,178 in 2004, from $9,151 in 2000. The Commonwealth's household income and family income mirrored the decline in per capita income. Each household made an average income of $25,172 in 2004, down from $37,015 in 2000. The average family income plunged to $28,461 in 2004, from $37,986 in 2000. A downward trend was also observed in the labor force population. Unemployment rose to 8 percent in 2005, from 4 percent in 2000.

'Sponsorship schemes' on the rise, says Labor

The closure of many garment factories and other establishments has resulted in more alien workers engaging in sponsorship schemes. "We are seeing sponsorship issues left to right," Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune*. San Nicolas said that since being appointed Labor Secretary under the Fitial administration, the department has been continuously investigating sponsorship schemes.

Kagman Elementary School talks tourism

MVA

Marianas Tourism Education Council member Catherine Perry, right, shares ideas with Kagman Elementary students on how other students in the Northern Marianas are supporting tourism through airport greetings, island beautification projects, and volunteering to help with Northern Marianas signature events. Perry was part of the MTEC presentation at the school on April 4, 2013.

Students at Kagman Elementary closed their school day last April 4 with a 30-minute tourism talk with the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

MTEC delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Northern Marianas tourism industry and handing out prizes during a post-presentation quiz on what the students learned. Students were able to identify the four major tourism markets of the Northern Marianas (Japan, Korea, Russia, and China), list a benefit of tourism (spending money that helps the government build schools) name three signature events organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, and recite the slogan of the MVA, "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

"What's so exciting about making these tourism education presentations to the schools is that, as we enter our third year now, we see that the baseline knowledge of the students is growing," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "Some of the information we shared last year sticks with the students, and that's an indication that our efforts are bearing fruit in the younger generation."

MTEC offers seed money schools wishing to start MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs, monthly financial incentives for advisors of active clubs, and financially support on a case-by-case basis for club that are involved in MTEC-sanctioned tourism activities, such as airport greetings.

For more information about MTEC, contact Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or 663-33210 for more information. ***(MVA)***

MMAC team captains' meeting today

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a team captains' meeting today, April 11, beginning at 5:30pm at the Commonwealth Cancer Association Office on Middle Road in Gualo Rai (near NMPASI).

"We invite all team captains or their representatives to attend this important meeting. We have about two weeks left before the MMAC so we encourage everyone to attend," said 2013 MMAC team recruitment chairwoman Catherine Attao-Toves.

"We will hold our food handlers training at this meeting. All MMAC team members who will be handling food at the MMAC event are required to attend," said Attao-Toves.

The MMAC is the largest cancer fundraising activity in the CNMI. It is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness programs, cancer patient support services and other cancer-related activities.

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 26-27 from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. The 2013 MMAC is brought to you by title sponsors Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP. Special thanks to major sponsors Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, Hopwood Junior High School, McDonald's of Saipan, PHI Pharmacy, Saipan Mayor's Office, Traders Insurance Co. and Xerox Corporation. For more information call 989-1987, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(MMAC)***

IUMC to host free workshop

The Immanuel United Methodist Church is offering a free workshop about designing and leading a kind of worship that connects with people in transformative ways.

Scifres

"Designing Creative Worship for the 21st Century Postmodern World" will be held on April 21, Saturday, from noon to 4pm at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa.

Rev. Mary Scifres, a United Methodist pastor and Abingdon Press author, will conduct the workshop, which is funded by a California Pacific Annual Conference program grant.

"In this workshop, Scifres will provide practical tools and ideas for integrating various worship elements and styles—including emerging styles alongside multisensory and multicultural resources—into our worship services," according to the workshop poster.

For more information, call Pam A. Carhill at 287-4646 or Sol B. Corpuz at 989-0955. ***(PR)***

GO-KART ENTHUSIASTS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. underwriter Keomi Palacios, center, poses with Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Nick Nishikawa, far left, and HANMI's Gloria Cavanagh, far right, during the recent fundraising Budweiser HANMI Go-Kart Racing Tournament at the Marianas Resort Golf & Resort.

Saipan Lions clubs to induct new members

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lions clubs on Saipan will have new members who will be sworn in during the Lions Worldwide Induction event on at 6pm on Saturday, April 13, at Kanoa Resort Saipan.

Each year, more than a hundred Lion districts celebrate the Lions Worldwide Induction Day, a global event that welcomes new members and gives Lions the opportunity to stimulate membership growth and increase public awareness.

The Lions clubs on island are the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, and Saipan Unity Lions Club.

Ladyvir Canape said yesterday that this would be the first year that Lions clubs on Saipan will take part in an induction ceremony simultaneously done with other clubs around the world.

Canape said that 2nd vice district governor Lion Pasto Gagaring will induct 22 members for the Saipan Unity Lions Clubs and two for the Saipan Marianas Lions Club.

"Instead of attending the induction over in Guam for the district, he chose to stay here and be the inducting officer since he is the highest officer of the district here," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Canape added that past Region 2 chair Lion Eli Arago will deliver inspirational remarks to the new and current club members.

With 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members worldwide, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest international service club organization.

For more information about Saturday's induction, call 888-6506.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Eco Expo at the AMP

The American Memorial Park will be hosting the 4th Annual Eco Expo on April 16, 17, and 18, all from 8am to 2pm. Entrance is free. Participants are 4th and 5th graders with adult supervisors. Call 234-7207 for more information. ***(PR)***

Navy training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 April 12 from 10am to 10pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

EAM events for the week

April is Environmental Awareness Month! Come join in on this week's events!

■ Host a film festival: Any community group, school or other organization can sponsor a showing (free of charge) of one of 20+ environmental documentaries. For a complete list of films, and to coordinate a screening, contact Kaity Mattos at kaitlinmattos@deq.gov.mp.

■ Saturday, April 13, 8am, Banzai Trail – Bird Walk and Invasive Species Removal with Micronesica Bird Conservation: Come learn how to identify our native birds and keep their habitat healthy with Micronesica Bird Conservation. Meet at Last Command Post at 8am on Saturday morning. For more information, contact Shelly Kremer at shellykremer@deq.gov.mp.

■ Go Native Tree Planting on Saturday, April 13: Does your community group want to plant native trees in your village, at your community center, church, local park, etc.? Contact Jihan Buniag atjihanbuniag@deq.gov.mp or Yubert Alepuyo at yubertalepuyo@deq.gov.mp to set up your event!

EAM contests

■ Trash In Fashion Show, April 25 at the Hard Rock Cafe. High school students will design and craft original high-fashion clothing entirely out of recycled material. Contact Olivia Tebuteb Tenorio at 664-8500.

■ Recycled Boat Race, April 20: Make a boat out of recycled materials and get it (in one piece with at least one passenger) across the finish line at Kilili Beach. Contact Cal Westergard at calwestergard@deq.gov.mp.

■ CRM's 'Where Does Trash Go?' photo competition: Take your cameras and phones on a mission to answer the question, where does trash go? Submit up to three photos in this year's Environmental Awareness Month's digital photo contest (deadline April 26). All ages are welcome to compete for great prizes! Submit your entries to Coastal Resources Management or e-mail them to nicole.schafer@crmsaipan.com.

■ Our Laolao photo competition: Details on the Our Laolao Facebook, entries due April 19! https://www.facebook.com/OurLaolao. Or contact Rachelle Muna at rachellemuna@gmail.com.

For general information about Environmental Awareness Month, contact Avra Heller at avrahellerdeq@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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www.briandutfycartoons.com
AS ANY ADULT KNOWS, ONE OF THE BEST WAYS OF DEALING WITH A TEMPER TANTRUM IS TO IGNORE IT.
N. KOREA

EDITORIAL

Thatcher, Reagan, and Gorbachev

Margaret Thatcher never shied away from a fight, be it with trade unionists or feminists, Irish Republicans or Argentines intent on seizing the Falkland Islands. Yet her most enduring legacy is one of peace. The former British prime minister, who died Monday at age 87, played a critical role in ending the Cold War—the nuclear-tipped threat to world peace as nations clustered in Soviet and Western blocs for four-plus decades after World War II.

With American President Ronald Reagan, Thatcher recognized the potential for transformative change in the rise of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Like Reagan, Thatcher hated communism. Like Reagan, she supported an ever-stronger nuclear deterrent to Soviet armaments. Yet when the time came to make history, Thatcher, like Reagan, stuck out her neck. The world is safer today because this woman of conviction took on the burden of leadership at the fateful hour.

Her role as peacemaker was unlikely, given how she had earned her "Iron Lady" nickname: from the government-controlled Soviet news media in 1976. It wasn't meant as a compliment. The Cold War was running hot. As leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party, Thatcher had given a speech bashing communist leaders in Moscow. She accused them of mounting an imperialist quest for world domination at the expense of their own people: "The men in the Soviet Politburo do not have to worry about the ebb and flow of public opinion," she said. "They put guns before butter, while we put just about everything before guns."

Thatcher became prime minister in 1979, making her the first—and, to date, only—woman to rule from No. 10 Downing Street. Her country was a shambles. Unemployment had become chronic. No one but Thatcher had the willpower to privatize, deregulate and otherwise act to free a recession-bound economy from its downward spiral.

To those who urged her to make a "U-turn" in her austere policies, she famously replied, "You turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning." By 1990, when she left office, the British economy had indeed staged a turnaround.

Such willful certainty made her U-turn on relations with the Soviets all the more remarkable.

Reagan, after taking office in 1981, had expanded a U.S. military buildup begun under his predecessor, Jimmy Carter. A resolute Reagan was famously determined to "leave Marxism and Leninism on the ash heap of history." Gorbachev, installed as general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985, found himself badly trailing the West in an arms race that his battered economy could not continue to run.

Thatcher, from her London vantage point, saw that Gorbachev represented a break from the Russian tradition of hardened autocrats. She had said the West could "do business" with him, teaming with Reagan to help bring about a nonviolent end to the Soviet era. Historians never write such unadorned verdicts, but in essence, Gorbachev and the crumbling Soviet Union had no choice but to end the Cold War in surrender.

In comments from his website reported Monday, Gorbachev recalled: "Our first meeting in 1984 set in motion relations that were sometimes complicated, not always smooth, but which were serious and responsible on both sides. Human relations also gradually took shape, becoming more and more friendly.

"In the end we managed to achieve a mutual understanding,

See THATCHER on Next Page

Chicago's Ebert

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

We are not preoccupied with death, our paean to yesterday's Iron Lady notwithstanding. This year, we move into that last phase of our existence we previously labeled as the "celebration of our finitude." We turn 68 on our gracious journey unto death, and on a chosen timeline until 2031 when we make 86, we shall allow the eulogy in our *Requiem* and the singing of a final *Te Deum* when our cremated remains is cast to the wind and water currents of the terrestrial realm.

In the 70-80s, we lived off and on in Chicago' Uptown where American film making started before it headed to smoggy Los Angeles, so we became familiar with the lively film critiquing of Siskel and Ebert. In 1999, Gene Siskel at 53 succumbed to a fatal surgery in his fight against cancer.

This week, at 70, Roger Ebert followed after struggling with thyroid cancer, and a few days before his death, he had his thumbs up on existence (as quoted in John Cock's *Journey Reflection* dialogue):…"While not without its flaws, life, from birth to death, is a masterwork, and an uplifting journey that both touches the heart and challenges the mind…At times brutally sad, yet surprisingly funny, and always completely honest, I wholeheartedly recommend existence. If you haven't experienced it yet, then what are you waiting for? It is not to be missed."

Ross Mason, M.S., wrote of cancer awareness and prevention in yesterday's *Tribune*, and we certainly would not discourage any gains in knowledge and wisdom over one of human's thoroughly debilitating conditions. But it is in the doing that passes the test of the pudding, and Mason weighs in heavily on the area of prevention, particularly in paying attention to fructose intake. Not unlike our comments over our two ASD-diagnosed kids in another awareness focus this month, we can also stay focused on the forest and miss paying attention to the individual trees. (To remind myself not to be captive solely within the conceptual periphery, I light four candles on my ledge to lift into consciousness the journey of four specific individuals of my acquaintance living graciously with their condition.)

This is where Ebert's quote came to fore. And it has to do with paying attention to the limits and possibilities of life, metaphors I picked up while hanging out with the folks associated with the Institute of Cultural Affairs in Chicago. (Not to worry, this is not a theological discourse!)

But first, words on the "PA¥ing" attention metaphor, so heavily laden with commercial overtones. I teach business oral English to Chinese University students and since "listening" is an encouraged skill, thoroughly forgotten by a generation who grew up with the cell phone and are merrily yakking away, I use "paying attention" as another code term to heeding "human consciousness" with the four levels of awareness of sense experience, expressed feelings, articulated thoughts, and formulated plans. Skewing the monetary allusion of "pay," I say "we shall pLay attention with our consciousness," advising that the L should not be read as the British pound!

Playing attention is then focused on real limits and possibilities. But first, we leave our *mianzi,* face, outside the classroom door. The subject of oral English discourse is *real* life, not the facade we build to manipulate social relationships. This is easier said than done with the Chinese, culturally inured to disdain talking about one's self, more so at being brutally honest about it. So I make fun of it. My face in the University is to be a *lao shi,* teacher, with all the status and expected demeanor appertaining to the role.

"But I leave that face outside the door," I add, "and inside, I become Hemingwei (the name students started calling when the school wrote "Hemi" for "Jaime") *shen jing ping* (literally "crazy," both in its laughable and vile sense). That's when I get both the giggles and the bewildered looks. It also opens up a level of honesty in the room.

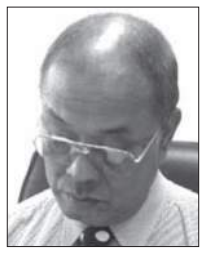
National Geographic posters grace my walls, from Chinese images to the far-flung edge of the universe. I then draw the *taiji* of the old *pugua* (yin-yang within the 8 trigrams) on the board and focus first on the two dots on the swirling teardrops. On the empty one, I point to a Hubble image of a huge expanse and say that before the universe, "I am not even a pixel in the HDTV of life." On the solid dot, I point to images of 56 ethnic groups and artifacts like those in the Forbidden City, and add: "but at conception, you were the 200-millionth sperm that made it, your parents gave you a name that grounds you in geography, and in 2013, you are Chinese, one of every five creatures in today's planet Earth. You are somebody, with power and immense possibilities, if you so choose."

I then end with three Cs (you can tell, I play with words) that I use to relate life's story. CAUSE is the common one, a determined existence, either by genetics, history, and/or geography. Then there is CHANCE at either the *mahjong* tables, the stock market, and/or with the incense at the altar. The last is CHOICE, which is what they have holding in their hands when they come to class as they encounter the several decades they have chosen to live Ebert's recommended existence.

Cancer is not a foe. It is in our time a human condition, the occasion when we can play attention to living the reality of our lives.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gaston hinemlu' natibu



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Magahet na i gaston nesessidat-ta mas menos gi inamko'ta. Ha inklusu magagu, neñkanu', yan otru siha fina' diariu na usu. Lau unu kahulu' ni tita li'e gi karera mona pot nesessidat: Gaston Hinemlu'.

Man-mattu hit gi idat 'nai mañgalu timota, fangu'otta pot maribaha brinabuta. Megaiña besis na man-ugoñg hit pot putin tatautau 'sino haf' na chinatsaga ni fumatoigue hit gi inamko'ta.

Giya guahu na maisa, hu li'e maribahan fuetsaghu deste siñkuenta na libra na kostat pugas ni hu dadagau ni akagueghu sin ditension. Pa'gu, ni bai' gu'ot dos kanai kanaha' makat hu mueba.

Dispues de operasion korasonhu, mas maribahayu gi katkuet manera. Lau unu sige ha' hulu': gaston amot yan setbisiun mediku. Mauleg ha' 'an kumahat adumidide'. Lau dios tiampare sa' esta man-galolope. Sessu ha diñguyu' este na gastu.

Magahet lokue' na gi inamko'ta 'nai ha hogse hit i hagas diskuiduta siha. Sumen dinanche finu' man-amku' na gi inamko'ta 'nai ha fatoigue hit chetnot diskudu. Lau lologlug hit fuetsa gi hinibenta ayu buente na mandiskuidau hit ni hinemlu' tatautau-ta.

Gi karera mona, este na gastu megai para u fan hinegse ayu mina' sumen presisu dinaña man-ma'gasta gi diniskuten este na asuntu. Gaston himelu' i mas guaguan gi maseha manu na gobietnamentu. Ti anog gi tutuhon lau siempre u fattu kulan birag gi uttimu besis.

Man-suette i man-kualifikau ayudun Medicaid. Lau este na gastu u sige ha' hulu' 'nai siempre mas makat ta apase pronto obligasionta gi mafanana'an "matching fund"—patteta gi papa' este na programa. Puede ha' mohon mas guaha adelantun ekonomia sa' este solu na pisu 'nai siña ta prebeniye patteta gi papa' programan Medicaid.

■■■

Otru didog na trompison

I programan man-ritirau ginagasta i gobietnu $65 miyon pesus gi sakan. Un' espehos ennau na gastu kontra i rinikohen kontribusion tax ni mampos suspichosu kinalamteña. Ennau i $114 miyon pesus yan dididi' mas para umarikohe gi otru sakan moneda.

Na'suha 80 pot sientu gi tutat para sueddon empleau. I seblante kase ennau i $40 miyon pesus. Este na figura anog na tinahoñg para apas dibin gobietnu gi programan man-ritirau. Mas chafleg yangin unna' fan halom nesessidat otru siha ahensia tat kumu i hospitat yan eskuelan publiku.

Makat na kontrariu ayu mina' guaha siha priniponen lai manmalalagnos na biahe pot para umakatsu i programan manritirau yan otru siha nesessidatta. Tana'e bendision i gobietnota puede ginen i man-suenu siha na diniseha ginen hita u soda' ma'ug na satbasion i mas man-presisu na nesessidatta.

Ta lilie'e familia man-mamatinas fina' amotsa ya mabebende pot para ayudon gaston membron familia ni mana' hanau para hospitat iya Filipinas yan Hawaii. Sumen makat para hita lau este ha' solu 'nai siña ta gachuñge i gobietnu gi para ta ayudan maisa hit mismu.

■■■

Na'mañau na ira

Deste pa'gu na mes, i atdau gi lañget para u hihot mas halom gi tanu'. Mas maipe para ta padese 'nai mattu este piot ya sige ma shalom i atdau deste kinahulo'ña 'an oga'an.

Mananayuyot-yu' na u halom bendision i Saina ginen tinayuyot nanaña as Santa Maria na u satba hit ginen haf' mamamaila' na fina' ira pot humihot atdau halom gi tanu'.

Puede ti man-inaminasa i man-amko', man-malañgu yan man-namase' gi enteru elmundu 'nai mas didog ininan i atdau na sakan. Lokue', puede ma'ase' i Saina ya u rega papa' i tanu' kada pueñge pot para u rebaha i kliman mapredidikta na finatton fanumnagan (tiempon maipe). Makat para megai na tautau 'an masusede este.

■■■

Otru menos na asuntu

Mañgge' lahihu un' estoria pot sunidon inaguaiya. Ilelegña na i Indian na tautague sessu kantan niha pot hanom. Era, mapega kumu sentru na asuntu gi katkuet kinalamten linala'.

Ha birague' i Indian ya ha faisen i a'paka' na Amerikano, "Haf" na puru ha' hamyu pot guinaiyan ginen korason. Magahet na taya' hamyu gumuaiya?" A'Saina de dios mihu.

Hombre, maila' fan tafan asede gi hafa pinayonta piot dinagen pot si neni. Mattu gi mandakun hit na achog hita mismu umaminasa si neni, uttimoña kulan hita i manma-aminasa. Puru kantan kadu' lau hita mismu fumañagu sasalaguan-ta. A`Saina dispensa ham!

■■■

'Nai masañgane un' patgon lahe na bonitu mataña kulan patgon palao'an, ilegña, "Mauleg ya bai' na'seguru na bonitayu' kada ora, diariu." De dios mihu! Hombre, guaha ha' paire yan ti sen paire mana'iña fasu. De dios mihu!

Margaret Thatcher's many faces

By CATHY YOUNG
NEWSDAY

As the world marks the passing of Margaret Thatcher at age 87, some of the attention has inevitably focused on her unique status as Britain's first and only female prime minister. When Thatcher was elected in 1979, she was only the eighth woman in world history to lead a state without being a hereditary monarch. Yet Thatcher's legacy as a female public figure of towering achievement is a paradox. Too often, she is rejected by feminists who shudder at her conservative politics—and embraced by conservatives who ignore her feminist life.

Thatcher did not call herself a feminist. Indeed, she has been quoted as saying, "I hate feminism. It is poison"—though this statement comes from the recollection of the former Thatcher adviser, author and historian Paul Johnson, who is himself a critic of feminism. Whatever her beliefs, Thatcher was certainly a trailblazer. She was a grocer's daughter who became the first person in her family to go to college—Oxford, no less. She got a degree in chemistry, became active in politics and trained as a lawyer, gaining admission to the bar in 1953.

A few years ago, feminist writer Zoe Williams wrote in the British newspaper The Guardian that Thatcher was "against single mothers, working mothers, women in general" and only "made an exception for herself." Not true. As a rising conservative politician, the future Iron Lady wrote a letter to a newspaper lamenting that many women were held back from professional success by the prejudice against women combining marriage and career. This letter, titled "Wake Up Women," was published in 1952—more than 10 years before Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique."

Thatcher herself was a working mother, winning a seat in Parliament when she had 6-year-old twins. Later, as prime minister, she came under fire for making critical remarks about a generation of "creche" (nursery) children; but this was less about traditional gender roles than state-funded day care. Thatcher had a lifelong antipathy to activist government, fearing that it would inevitably lead to authoritarianism.

Unlike many of her fellow conservatives, both British and American, Thatcher extended her opposition to interventionist government to moral as well as economic matters. In the 1960s, she was one of the few conservatives in Parliament who voted to decriminalize male homosexuality and legalize abortion. In a 1978 interview for The Catholic Herald, she harshly lectured the interviewer when he asked what the government should do about rising divorce rates, telling him, "Governments aren't Big Brother."

Thatcher generally did not concern herself with "women's issues"; but when she did address them publicly, it was to support women's advancement. In 1988, she spoke out in favor of the ordination of women in the Anglican Church, for example.

She was also a feminist role model by being utterly unafraid to be seen as harsh or unlikable. That's a refreshing alternative to so-called feminists who wring their hands over how victimized women supposedly are by the slightest whiff of social disapproval.

Although feminists may wrongly mock Thatcher, conservatives fail to acknowledge the ways in which she defied their own shibboleths. Far too many on the right still cling to stereotypes of women as nurturing and unambitious, or they warn—either with glee or with supposed concern—that successful women are doomed to misery because no feminine woman can find happiness with a less powerful man. Yet Thatcher's marriage to her husband, Denis, seems to have been loving and satisfying.

In all the ways that matter, Thatcher was a feminist. It's time for both her feminist detractors and her conservative admirers to admit it.

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason *magazine and the website RealClearPolitics. This was written for* Newsday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New mascot

Dear Gov. Eloy Inos: Since we are at a point of bringing back tourists and making Saipan the best tourist destination, let's try to change its mascot from the Saipanda, which does not exist, to Home of the Blue Jays, which really exist. To use the blue jay as the CNMI's mascot would really invite tourists to the Commonwealth. As you'll notice here on Saipan, everywhere you go you can see blue jays around. The islands need a change of mascot, a more inviting one. As tourists enter the islands and leave the islands they have a sense and feeling of paradise. Saipan, to many tourists, is paradise, with its many cultures and rich history and its animals like the blue jays that can be seen everywhere. We need a mascot that has meaning, not a mascot that has no meaning. If the Marianas Visitors Authority can't change it, maybe you can. Say no to Saipanda and say yes to a new mascot.

Brenson John
Hummelstown, Pennsylvania

THATCHER

From Page 10

and that contributed to a change in the atmosphere between our country (the Soviet Union) and the West and the end of the Cold War."

History will remember Thatcher, even beyond her unleashing of the British economy, for the role she played in ending that terrible conflict, distinguished by the fact that its principal warriors never engaged in armed combat. Thatcher began retreating from the global spotlight after a series of strokes in 2002. On Monday, another stroke ended her life.

A new generation knows Thatcher mainly from actress Meryl Streep's Oscar-winning portrayal in the 2011 movie, "The Iron Lady." It's a fine flick, as far as that goes. But if you're old enough to remember how Maggie Thatcher helped defeat communism's nearly half-century threat to Western liberalism, you're ahead by more than the cost of a ticket.

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The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

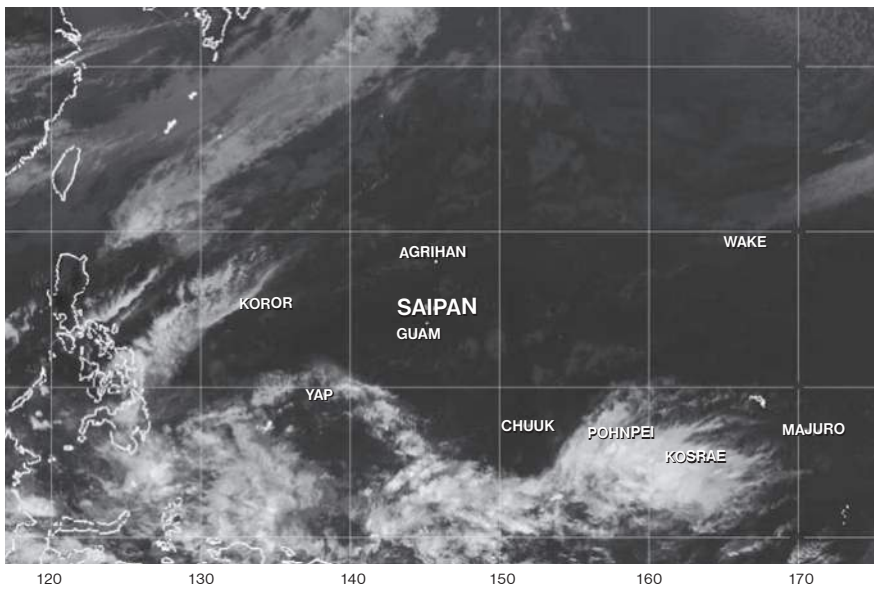
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼60
Beijing	Sunny	▲60	▼35
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼62
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼70
London	Showers	▲51	▼44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
New York	Thundershowers	▲79	▼56
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼45
Paris	Rain	▲56	▼47
Pusan	Windy	▲60	▼40
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Salem	Showers	▲56	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲51	▼35
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼43
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts from 25N133E to beyond 130E at 22N with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms along and up to 400 miles northwest of the front. Another cold front curves southwestward from the date line at 24N180 to just north of Wake Island at 20N166E then stretches westward as a diffuse shear line to beyond 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are along and up to 300 miles northwest of the cold front. Cloudiness and patchy rain are near the shear line. A trade-wind disturbance is centered southeast of Koror at 4N138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are south of 7N from 130E to 140E and south of 5N from 140E to 150E. Scattered showers are also east of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 9N142E to 8N145E. A surface trough runs from 1N155E to 7N158E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are southeast of Chuuk to just south of Pohnpei across Kosrae between 7N and 2N from 153E to 166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
10:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:22 AM	7:14 PM
Friday	7:06 AM	8:05 PM
Saturday	7:50 AM	8:56 PM
Sunday	8:36 AM	9:46 PM
Monday	9:24 AM	10:34 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

J.C. Penney CEO's challenge: Can it still be fixed?

NEW YORK (AP)—There won't be an easy fix for J.C. Penney—if it can be fixed at all.

As Mike Ullman takes the reins again less than two years after his departure, he faces a Herculean task to undo the mess left by CEO Ron Johnson, who was ousted Monday. With the department store retailer in the middle of a disastrous overhaul that has driven away shoppers, the 66-year-old Ullman has to quickly figure out what parts of Johnson's legacy to keep and what to trash.

The overarching question is whether the century-old company can be saved at all. Very few retailers have recovered from a 25 percent sales drop in a single year, like that suffered by Penney under Johnson's watch. On Tuesday, the retailer's stock price dropped more than 12 percent to a 12-year-low of $13.93 as investors' worries escalated about Penney's future.

"Ullman can't go back to the old ways, but he can't do what Ron Johnson did," said Ron Friedman, head of the retail and consumer products group at Marcum LLP, a national accounting and consulting firm. "I think there will be a combination of the two. But he has to make some quick moves."

Apparently, the company's board of directors felt Ullman, who served as Penney's CEO for seven years and is known for strong relationships with suppliers and calm, steady execution, would be the best choice right now to secure the company's future. But it could take Ullman 18 months to stabilize the business, says Burt Flickinger III, president of retail consultancy Strategic Resource Group. He gives the chain a 50-50 chance to survive.

"The odds are declining every day," said Flickinger, noting that rivals like Macy's are taking away market share. "Competitors see blood in the water."

Johnson, the mastermind behind Apple Inc.'s successful retail stores, lasted just 17 months. He faced an ever-growing chorus of critics calling for his resignation as they lost faith in the aggressive overhaul. The rapid-fire changes included getting rid of coupons and most discounts in favor of everyday low prices, bringing in new brands and remaking its outdated stores. Johnson's goal was to reinvent the stodgy retailer into a mini-mall of hip specialty shops.

AP

A customer leaves a J.C. Penney store, Tuesday, April 9, 2013 in New York. J.C. Penney is hoping its former CEO can revive the retailer after a risky turnaround strategy backfired and led to massive losses and steep sales declines.

China's March imports rise in sign of recovery

BEIJING (AP)—China reported higher import growth in March in a possible positive sign for its economic recovery but analysts said doubts about the accuracy of Beijing's data made it hard to draw conclusions.

Imports rose 14.1 percent from the 5 percent for the combined January-February period, customs data showed Wednesday, suggesting Chinese manufacturers and consumers might be buying more.

Export growth slowed to 10 percent from the previous two-month period's 23.6 percent. That could add to challenges for newly installed Communist Party leaders as they try to sustain the rebound from China's deepest downturn since the 2008 global crisis and avoid job losses.

"Exports growth was expected to decelerate," said Alaistair Chan of Moody's Analytics in a report. "On the imports side, it is too soon to tell if the bounce reflects higher domestic demand or simply a rebound" from February's sharp reported decline.

Economic growth rose to 7.9 percent in the three months ending in December, up from the previous quarter's 7.4 percent. Analysts say the recovery is being propped up by government spending and could be vulnerable if trade or state-driven investment weakens.

Analysts said possible problems with the accuracy of official data made it hard to use them to get a clear picture of China's economic health.

Commentators raised questions after China reported much stronger trade with other countries in recent months than was shown by data from the governments of those economies.

Some suggested Chinese companies might be reporting phony sales abroad as a way to evade currency controls and move money into China. Others say Beijing might have exaggerated trade volume to make the economy look healthier during the transition to a new generation of Communist Party leaders in recent months.

"Today's trade data release has not instilled any more confidence in either the quality of data or the strength of the recovery," said IHS Global Insight analyst Alistair Thornton in a report.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

KPMG resigns as auditor for Herbalife, Skechers

NEW YORK (AP)—Accounting firm KPMG has resigned as the auditor for nutrition company Herbalife and shoe retailer Skechers after a rogue partner allegedly leaked information about the companies to someone who used it to trade stocks. KPMG said it has fired the partner and has no reason to believe there were any problems with the financial reports of Herbalife or Skechers. Skechers said KPMG told it that the ex-partner provided the inside information in exchange for money and is under federal investigation. An SEC spokesman declined to comment. A message left for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles was not immediately returned.

Chrysler recalls more than 247,000 cars, SUVs

DETROIT (AP)—Chrysler Group LLC is recalling more than 247,000 SUVs and cars for several problems, including faulty gas tank hoses, broken drive shafts and air bag warning lights that illuminate when there's no problem. The largest of the recalls, posted Tuesday on the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website, covers about 139,000 Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger and Dodge Challenger sedans from the 2011 and 2012 model years. The automaker says that faulty wiring can cause the air bag warning lights to illuminate. Cars made from April 11, 2011 to Dec. 14, 2011 are included. Chrysler says it will fix the vehicles for free and will start notifying owners about the problem this month.

US companies are posting more jobs but filling few

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. employers have more job openings than at any other time in nearly five years. That's in part because they seem in no hurry to fill them.

And it helps explain why the job market remains tight and unemployment high. Even as openings have surged 11 percent in the past year, the number of people hired each month has declined.

Why so many openings yet so few hires?

Economists point to several factors: Some unemployed workers lack the skills employers want. Some companies may not be offering enough pay. And staffing firms and employment experts say that in a still-fragile economy, many businesses seem hesitant to commit to new hires. They appear to be holding out for the perfect candidate.

"We're living in a fear-based environment right now," says Kim First, CEO of The Agency Worldwide, a recruiting firm for pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

Those who do have jobs these days are unlikely to lose them. Layoffs have sunk to a pre-recession level.

But First says that companies feel they can't afford to take a risk by hiring someone who doesn't appear to be an ideal fit for the job they've advertised.

"They are really reluctant to make that leap of faith," she says. Companies "need someone to come in and hit the ground running."

The Labor Department said Tuesday that the number of job openings rose 8.7 percent in February from January to a seasonally adjusted 3.93 million. That was the most since May 2008.

At the same time, companies hired a seasonally adjusted 4.4 million people, just 2.8 percent more than in January. And hiring remained lower than it was a year ago, when it was nearly 4.5 million.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
14,673.46	1,568.61	3,237.86
+59.98	5.54	+15.61
+0.41%	+0.35%	+0.48%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9524	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7633	Philippine Peso	41.1441
British Pound	0.6527	Indian Rupee	54.523	Singapore Dollar	1.2379
Canadian Dollar	1.016	Indonesian Rupiah	9720.9	South Korean Won	1138.6
Chinese Yuan	6.1946	Japanese Yen	99.1299	Swiss Franc	0.9327
Euro	0.7649	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0333	Taiwan Dollar	30.004
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1731	Thailand Baht	28.9829

Nation

Student charged in Texas college stabbing attack

CYPRESS, Texas (AP)—A student who told police he'd fantasized for years about stabbing people to death was charged Tuesday with carrying out a building-to-building attack at a Texas community college that wounded at least 14 people, many of whom were stabbed in the face and neck, authorities said.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that 20-year-old Dylan Quick used a razor-type knife, and that he told investigators he'd been planning the attack at the suburban Houston campus for some time. Two people remained in critical condition late Tuesday.

Pieces of the blade were found in at least one victim, according to the sheriff's office. Broken blade pieces also were found in the area where the stabbing occurred on the Lone Star Community College campus in Cypress, and the handle was discovered in a backpack that Quick was carrying when he was arrested.

Quick was charged Tuesday night with three counts of aggravated assault. It wasn't immediately clear if additional charges would be filed, though he is scheduled to make his first court appearance Thursday.

Authorities were seen entering Quick's parents' home in a middle-class neighborhood of Houston late Tuesday. No one answered the door or the phone at the red brick house, where two vehicles were parked in the driveway, including a Honda Accord with a license plate that said "DYLAN." It was not immediately known if Quick had an attorney.

AP

Dylan Quick, who is a suspect in the multiple stabbings on the Lone Star Cy-Fair Campus, right, is escorted by Harris County Sherrif's Office investigators after being questioned, Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in Houston.

Lone Star College
Network of seven community college sites around Houston
Cy-Fair Campus
Cypress, Texas
10 miles
10 km
North Harris Campus
45
220
10
Houston
8
65
45
Galveston Bay
Galveston
Gulf of Mexico
Stabbings rampage, April 9
• 11:12 a.m. local time
Male suspect "running loose, stabbing people," according to incoming 911 calls; Harris County Sheriffs Dept., other agencies, respond
• Injuries At least 14 hurt; two critically, four in fair condition; four victims airlifted
• Suspect One male in custody; buildings searched
Shooting, Jan. 21
• Gunfire exchanged between two suspects at North Harris campus; two injured
Source: ESRI, AP
© 2013 MCT

"I can't imagine what would have happened to that young man to make him do something like this. He is very normal," said Magdalena Lopez, 48, who has lived across the street from the Quick family for 15 years.

Quick, she said, would always say hi to her and her family when she would see him outside taking out the trash or working on his family's front lawn. Quick is deaf, she said, and a street sign, "Deaf Child In Area," was posted on the block of brick, ranch-style homes warning drivers of his condition.

"I can't believe he would do it," Lopez said.

The stabbing spree began around 11:20 a.m., and students described a bloody scene.

Diante Cotton, 20, said he was sitting in a cafeteria with some friends when a girl clutching her neck walked in, yelling: "He's stabbing people! He's stabbing people!"

Cotton said he could not see the girl's injuries, but when he and his friends went outside, they saw a half-dozen people with injuries to their faces and necks being loaded into ambulances and medical helicopters.

Michelle Alvarez told the Houston Chronicle that she saw the attacker running toward other students and tried to back away. She said she didn't even feel it as he swiped at her.

Federal budget cuts ground Air Force aircraft

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—A third of the U.S. Air Force's active-duty force of combat planes including fighters and bombers will be grounded due to federal budget cuts, and only the units preparing to deploy to major operations, such as the war in Afghanistan, will remain mission-ready, a top general said Tuesday.

Other units would stand down on a rotating basis, said Gen. Mike Hostage, commander of Air Combat Command at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia.

"The current situation means we're accepting the risk that combat airpower may not be ready to respond immediately to new contingencies as they occur," Hostage said in a statement.

The Air Force didn't immediately release a list of the specific units and bases that would be affected, but it said it would cover some fighters like F-16 Fighting Falcons and F-22 Raptors, and some airborne warning and control aircraft in the U.S., Europe and the Pacific.

The Air Force says, on average, aircrews "lose currency' to fly combat commissions within 90 to 120 days of not flying. It generally takes 60 to 90 days to train the crews to mission-ready status.

Returning grounded units to be ready for missions will require additional funds beyond Air Combat Command's normal budget, according to Air Force officials. The stand down will remain in effect for the remainder of fiscal year 2013 barring any changes to funding.

Cookie Monster, Elmo get in Times Square trouble

NEW YORK (AP)—Cookie Monster stands accused of shoving a 2-year-old. Super Mario was charged with groping a woman. And Elmo was booked for berating tourists with anti-Semitic slurs.

Times Square is crawling with entrepreneurs who dress up as pop-culture characters and try to make a few bucks posing for photos with visitors to the big city. But some of these characters are unlike anything you've seen on "Sesame Street" or at Disney World.

They smoke, they use foul language, and they can be aggressive. At least three of them have been arrested in the past seven months.

"He was using words that were really bad," said Parmita Kurada of Stamford, Conn., who told police she got into a dispute this week with a man in a Cookie Monster costume who demanded $2 for posing with her 2-year-old son, Samay.

Kurada said that when she told the Cookie Monster that her husband needed to get cash, the shaggy blue creature pushed the boy and began calling her and the child obscene names.

"It was very scary for us, and I was crying. I didn't want to provoke him, so I said, `We'll give you the money, but stop yelling!'" she said.

Osvaldo Quiroz-Lopez, 33, was charged with assault, child endangerment and aggressive begging. His lawyer did not immediately return a call for comment.

Senate showdown vote on gun curbs set for Thursday

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate's top Democrat has set Congress' first showdown vote for Thursday on President Barack Obama's gun control drive as a small but mounting number of Republicans appear willing to buck a conservative effort to prevent debate from even beginning.

Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada announced his decision Tuesday as the White House, congressional Democrats and relatives of the victims of December's mass shooting in Newtown, Conn., amped up pressure on GOP lawmakers to allow debate and votes on gun control proposals. Twenty first-graders and six educators were gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School, turning gun control into a top-tier national issue.

Meanwhile, participants from both parties said a bipartisan deal was imminent on expanding required federal background checks to gun purchases conducted at gun shows and online. The two chief negotiators, Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., were expected to announce the compromise on Wednesday.

Manchin and Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told reporters late Tuesday that a deal was close. A Toomey aide said the same, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss closed-door bargaining.

An agreement on background checks—the cornerstone of Obama's plan to restrict firearms—could boost bipartisan support for the overall effort, at least initially, because Manchin and Toomey are among their parties' most conservative members. But the ultimate fate of gun legislation remains unclear, clouded by opposition from many Republicans and moderate Democrats in the Democratic-led Senate and the GOP-run House.

The emerging deal would expand required federal background checks to sales at gun shows and online, but exempt transactions like face-to-face, non-commercial purchases, said several Senate aides and lobbyists who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private talks.

Currently, the checks are required only for sales through licensed gun dealers.

On the Senate floor, Reid pointed to a poster-sized photo of a white picket fence that had slats bearing the names of the Newtown victims.

"We have a responsibility to safeguard these little kids," said Reid, D-Nev. "And unless we do something more than what's the law today, we have failed."

Asia

Despite talk of imminent launch, NKorea is calm

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea has completed preparations for a missile test that could come any day, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said as Pyongyang prepares to mark the April 15 birthday of its founder, historically a time when it seeks to draw the world's attention with dramatic displays of military power.

In Pyongyang, however, the focus Wednesday was less on preparing for war and more on beautifying the city ahead of the nation's biggest holiday. Soldiers hammered away on construction projects, gardeners got down on their knees to plant flowers and trees, and students marched off to school, belying a sense that tensions on the Korean Peninsula have reached their highest point since the Korean War ended nearly 60 years ago.

Last year, the days surrounding the centennial of the birth of Kim Il Sung, grandfather of the current ruler, was marked by parades of tanks, goose-stepping soldiers and missiles, as well as the failed launch of a satellite-carrying rocket widely believed by the U.S. and its allies in the West to be a test of ballistic missile capabilities. A subsequent test in December went off successfully, and that was followed by the country's third underground nuclear test on Feb. 12 this year.

The resulting U.N. sanctions have been met with an unending string of threats and provocations from the North, raising tensions on the peninsula to their highest point since the end of the Korean War in 1953, according to some experts. Pyongyang advised foreign embassies to consider evacuating their citizens by Wednesday, and warned tourists in South Korea to leave Seoul in case of an outbreak of war. However, most diplomats and foreign residents appeared to be staying put.

In Seoul, the defense ministry official said the North appeared prepared to carry out a missile launch at any time. He spoke on condition of anonymity, saying he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

He said Pyongyang's military is capable of conducting multiple missile launches involving Scud and medium-range Rodong missiles, as well as a missile transported to the east coast recently. He refused to say how Seoul obtained the information.

Adm. Samuel Locklear, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington on Tuesday that he concurred with an assessment by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., calling the tension between North Korea and the West the worst since the end of the Korean War.

"The continued advancement of the North's nuclear and missile programs, its conventional force posture, and its willingness to resort to asymmetric actions as a tool of coercive diplomacy creates an environment marked by the potential for miscalculation," Locklear told the panel.

He said the U.S. military and its allies would be ready if North Korea tries to strike.

Arming the Pacific
In response to recent bellicose actions by North Korea, the U.S. and South Korea have shifted some advanced missile systems.
Missile defense systems
Warships with anti-missile capabilities
CHINA
RUSSIA
N. KOREA
Pyongyang
Seoul
S. KOREA
JAPAN
250 km
250 miles
CHINA
Pacific Ocean
PHILIPPINES
GUAM
Recent actions
Dec. 12, 2012 North Korea launches rocket; says it put a satellite in orbit
Feb. 12, 2013 North conducts underground nuclear test
March 11 U.S., South Korea begin yearly military drills
March 19 U.S. flies B-52 bombers over South Korea
March 27 Pyongyang closes military hotline with Seoul
March 28 U.S. flies B-2 stealth bombers over South
March 30 North states it is in "state of war" with South
April 2 North says it will restart its Yongbyon nuclear reactor
April 3 North bars workers from South from Kaesong plant; U.S. moves an advanced missile system to Guam
April 4 North reportedly shifted a mid-range missile to its east coast
April 5 South deploys warships to track North's missiles
Source: BBC, AP, ESRI
Graphic: Pat Carr
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Afghan women in Kabul prison over 'moral' crimes

KABUL (AP)—Lost and alone in a strange city Mariam called the only person she knew, her husband's cousin. She worried he wouldn't help her because she had left her home in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province, fleeting to the capital Kabul to escape his relentless and increasingly vicious beatings. But he promised to help. Too busy to come himself he sent a friend who took her to "some house", held a gun to her head and raped her.

Finished with her he settled in front of a TV set, the gun on a table by his side. Choosing her moment, Mariam picked up the gun shot her assailant in the head and turned the gun on herself.

"Three days later I woke up in the hospital," she said, slowly, shyly removing a scarf from her head to reveal a partially shaved head and a long jagged scar that ran almost the length of her head where the bullet grazed her scalp.

From the hospital Mariam was sent to a police station and from there to Badam Bagh, Afghanistan's central women's prison where she told her story to The Associated Press. For the past three months Mariam has been waiting to find out why she is in jail, the charges and when she can leave.

"I haven't gone to court. I am just waiting."

Hugging a ratty brown sweater to protect her from the damp cold of the prison, Mariam is one of 202 women living in the six- year- old jail. The majority of the women packed are serving sentences of up to seven years for leaving their husbands, refusing to accept a marriage arranged by their parents, or choosing to leave their parent's home with a man of their choice—all so-called "moral" crimes, says the prison's director general Zaref Jan Naebi.

Some of the women were jailed while pregnant, others with their small children. Naebi says there are 62 children living with their imprisoned mothers, sharing the same grey steel bunk-beds, napping in the afternoon hidden behind a sheet draped from an upper bunk, oblivious to the chatter and the crackling noises from the small fussy television sets shoved off to one side of the rooms.

The Taliban were thrown out 12 years ago ending five years of rule and regressive laws that enforced a tribal tradition and culture more than religious compulsions denying girls schools, ordering women to stay indoors unless accompanied by a male, and in some of the more severe cases even blackening the first story windows so prying eyes could not see women within. Women were forced to wear the all- encompassing burqa or suffer a public beating.

After US ship, Chinese vessel hits PH reef

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A suspected Chinese fishing vessel with 12 crewmen has run aground in a protected coral reef in the southwestern Philippines, where a U.S. Navy minesweeper got stuck and had to be dismantled recently, officials said Tuesday.

The steel-hulled vessel strayed into the Tubbataha National Marine Park in the Sulu Sea and struck an atoll, where it was stranded. It was unclear why the vessel strayed into the no-sail area, regional coast guard commander Commodore Enrico Efren Evangelista said.

It is not the same area where the Philippines and China were in a standoff last year over competing sea claims. Tubbataha lies east off southwestern Palawan province and is far from South China Sea islands and offshore areas long contested by China, the Philippines and four other governments.

The 12 crewmen were taken into custody but investigators have not been able to communicate with them because they do speak Chinese and no English. They may face charges of illegal entry and poaching, and have already violated a regulation banning commercial ships from venturing into a five-kilometer (three-mile) no-sail area around Tubbataha, park superintendent Angelique Songco said.

No fish were found in the vessel but it was equipped with fishing nets, she said.

Authorities will wait for a high tide Tuesday night or Wednesday morning to see if they can refloat the ship.

Tubbataha is a 97,000-hectare (239,700-acre) marine sanctuary and popular diving destination 640 kilometers (400 miles) southwest of Manila. It has been designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural arm, for its rich bio-diversity.

"It's clear in the charts that the Tubbataha sanctuary is off-limits to navigation but there seems to be a line of ships just waiting to violate that regulation," Songco said.

The USS *Guardian* ran aground in another Tubbataha atoll on Jan. 17 and was removed March 30 after being dismantled and lifted piece by piece by a crane to prevent more damage to the coral reefs.

More radioactive water leaking at Japan nuke plant

TOKYO (AP)—The operator of Japan's crippled nuclear power plant said Tuesday that it had detected a fresh leak of radioactive water from one of the facility's storage tanks.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. previously said two of seven huge underground tanks at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant had been leaking since Saturday if not earlier.

The latest leak involves a tank that was being used to take water from one of the two that were leaking, TEPCO spokesman Masayuki Ono said. Up to 120 tons might have leaked from one of the tanks and smaller amount from the other two, but none of the radioactive water was believed to have reached the ocean, he said.

TEPCO has halted the transfer of water to the third tank, diverting it to a fourth tank that remains intact. Two of the seven tanks are currently unused.

Ono said TEPCO has decided to stop using the two most damaged of the three leaking tanks as soon as they are emptied, but will use the other because of a tank shortage.

"We admit that the underground tanks are not reliable," Ono said. "But we must keep using some of them that are relatively in good shape while monitoring them closely. We just don't' have enough tanks on the ground that can accommodate the water."

The tanks are crucial to the management of contaminated water used to cool melted fuel rods at the plant's reactors, which were damaged in March 2011 by an earthquake and tsunami. They have since stabilized significantly but the melted fuel inside must be kept cool with water, which leaks out of the reactors' holes and ruptures and flows into basement areas. Plant workers are scrambling to find extra tanks at the plans and believe they can find space from unused containers and underground tanks.

World

Man kills 13 people in Serbian shooting rampage

VELIKA IVANCA, Serbia (AP)—He went from house to house in the village at dawn, cold-bloodedly gunning down his mother, his son, a 2-year-old cousin and 10 other neighbors. Terrified residents said if a police patrol car hadn't shown up, they all would have been dead.

Police said they knew of no motive yet in the carnage Tuesday that left six men, six women and a child dead in Velika Ivanca, a Serbian village 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Belgrade.

After the rampage, police said suspect Ljubisa Bogdanovic, a 60-year-old who saw action in one of the bloodiest sieges of the Balkan wars, turned his gun on himself and his wife as authorities closed in. Both were in grave condition at a hospital in the Serbian capital.

In the small lush village surrounded by fruit trees, the suspect's older brother Radmilo broke down in tears, unable to explain why the massacre had happened.

"Why did he do it? ... I still can't believe it," he said sobbing, covering his face with his hands. "He was a model of honesty."

"As a child, he was a frightened little boy. I used to defend him from other children. He couldn't even slaughter a chicken," he said.

Radmilo Bogdanovic, brother of Ljubisa Bogdanovic cries in village of Velika Ivanca, Serbia, Tuesday, April 9, 2013. AP

But he said his brother had changed after serving in the army during a brutal Serb-led offensive against the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar in 1992—the worst bloodshed during Croatia's 1991-95 war for independence.

"The war had burdened him," Radmilo, 62, told The Associated Press in an interview. "He used to tell me: God forbid you live through what I went through ... Something must have clicked in his head for him to do this."

Twelve people in the village were killed immediately between 5 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. and one person died later in a Belgrade hospital, Serbian police chief Milorad Veljovic said.

"Most of the victims were shot while they were asleep," Veljovic told reporters. "The most harrowing scene discovered by police was the dead bodies of a young mother and her 2-year-old son."

Although such mass shootings are relatively rare in Serbia, weapons are readily available, mostly from the 1990s wars in the Balkans. Media reports said the suspect had a license for the handgun and police said he had lost his job last year at a wood-processing factory.

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic said the killings showed that the government must pay more attention to gun control and other social problems facing the Balkan nation, which is still reeling from the 1990s wars. His government held an emergency session and proclaimed Wednesday a national day of mourning.

Residents said Bogdanovic first killed his son and his mother before leaving his house and then began shooting his neighbors. They expressed deep shock, describing the suspect as a quiet, helpful man.

"He knocked on the doors and as they were opened he just fired a shot," said villager Radovan Radosavljevic. "He was a good neighbor and anyone would open their doors to him. I don't know what happened."

"I never saw him angry, ever," said Milovan Kostadinovic, another resident. "He was helping everybody, he had a car and drove us everywhere."

Still, neighbors said an entire five-member family was shot dead in one house, including the small boy who was the suspected killer's cousin.

Kostadinovic said the suspect was confronted by police while en route to his house.

"If they didn't stop him, he would have wiped us all out," Kostadinovic said, standing in front of his two-story, red tile-roofed house. "He shot himself when police stopped him."

His wife Stanica said their small white-and-brown dog Rocky had gotten very nervous early in the morning and was barking and jumping up and down. She said when her husband opened their door, a policewoman shouted: "Get back in!"

"He was shooting everybody. Police saved us," she said.

Syrian militant group unites with al-Qaida in Iraq

BEIRUT (AP)—Al-Qaida's branch in Iraq and the most powerful rebel extremist group in Syria have officially joined ranks against President Bashar Assad to forge a potentially formidable militant force in the Middle East.

The merger of the Islamic State in Iraq and Jabhat al-Nusra forms a new entity that could be an even stronger opponent in the fight to topple Assad and become a dominant player in what eventually replaces his regime.

The new group, called the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, underscores the growing confidence and muscle of Islamist radicals fighting on the rebel side in Syria's civil war. It also bolsters the Syrian government's assertions that the regime is battling terrorists and that the uprising is a foreign-backed plot.

While the U.S. and its European and Gulf allies are concerned about the rising prominence of Islamists among the rebels, the merger is unlikely to prompt a shift in the international support. Late last year, Washington declared that Jabhat al-Nusra had ties to al-Qaida and designated it a terrorist organization.

To try to counter the rising influence of Jabhat al-Nusra and other Islamic extremists in the civil war, the U.S. and its allies have boosted their support for rebel factions deemed to be more moderate.

On the political front, they helped created the opposition umbrella group, the Syrian National Coalition, in the hope that it will serve as the united face of those trying to unseat Assad and administer much of the territory in northern Syria that rebels have managed to pry away from regime forces in the past year.

The U.S. and other countries also have stepped up covert support for rebels on the ground by helping to coordinate shipments of new weapons and training rebels in Jordan, officials say. Those receiving training are mainly secular Sunni Muslim tribesmen from central and southern Syria who once served in the army and police.

The force is seen as a counterbalance to the Islamic militant groups—chief among them Jabhat al-Nusra—that have proven to be among the most effective of the myriad rebel factions fighting Assad's forces, officials say.

The merger was announced by the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in a 21-minute audio message posted on militant websites late Monday. A website linked to Jabhat al-Nusra known as al-Muhajir al-Islami—the Islamic —confirmed the merger.

Iran says 37 killed in earthquake in south

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A 6.1 magnitude earthquake killed at least 37 and injured hundreds more in a sparsely populated area in southern Iran on Tuesday, Iranian officials said, adding that it did not damage a nuclear plant in the region.

The report said the earthquake struck the town of Kaki some 96 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Bushehr, a town on the Persian Gulf that is home of Iran's first nuclear power plant, built with Russian help.

"No damage was done to Bushehr power plant," Bushehr provincial governor Fereidoun Hasanvand told state TV. He said 37 people had died so far and 850 were injured, including 100 who were hospitalized.

The plant's chief, Mahmoud Jafari, confirmed the site's condition to semi-official Mehr news agency, saying that it is resistant to earthquakes of up to magnitude eight.

Water and electricity were cut to many residents, said Ebrahim Darvishi, governor of the worst-hit district Shonbeh.

The UN's nuclear watchdog agency said on its website that it had been informed by Iran that there was no damage to the plant and no radioactive release and, based on its analysis of the earthquake, was not seeking additional information. The International Atomic Energy Agency statement indicated that it was satisfied there was little danger.

Shahpour Rostami, the deputy governor of Bushehr province, told state TV that rescue teams have been deployed to Shonbeh.

Three helicopters were sent to survey the damaged area before sunset, said Mohammad Mozaffar, the head of Iran's Red Crescent rescue department. He said damage was particularly bad in the village of Baghan.

Kaki resident Mondani Hosseini told The Associated Press that people had run out into the streets out of fear.

Dozens of aftershocks have been reported by the official IRNA news agency since the earthquake, which occurred at 16:22 local time, 11:58 GMT.

Iran announced three days of mourning.

The quake was felt across the Gulf in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, where workers were evacuated from high-rise buildings as a precaution.

Earlier on Sunday a lighter earthquake jolted the nearby area. Iran is located on seismic faults and it experiences frequent earthquakes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt's pope sharply criticizes president

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Coptic Christian pope delivered an unprecedented direct criticism of the Islamist president Tuesday after a mob attack on the church's main cathedral, saying he had failed to protect the building and warning that the country is collapsing. The comments by Pope Tawadros II and the cathedral attack itself illustrate a new reality in Egypt, where institutions long seen as above the fray are being dragged into the country's intense polarization and political violence. Egypt has become increasingly divided between two camps, with President Mohammed Morsi and Islamist allies on one side and an opposition made up of moderate Muslims, Christians and liberals on the other, a schism essentially over the country's political future after decades of dictatorship. Opponents accuse Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood of seeking to monopolize power, while Morsi's allies say the opposition is trying to destabilize the country to derail the elected leadership.

Greece: Police station attacked in gold protest

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—Authorities say a police station has been attacked in a village in northern Greece where frequent protests have broken out against plans to develop a gold mine in the area by a Canadian mining company. The attack took place in the village of Ierissos early Wednesday after police special forces entered the homes of two local residents and arrested them over their alleged involvement in a February arson attack at the nearby gold mine installations. Local campaigners fiercely oppose the plans to develop the mine by Vancouver, Canada-based Eldorado Gold Corp. and argue that the venture will harm the economy in Greece's northern Halkidiki peninsula which relies heavily on farming and tourism.

Focus

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft is skewering Google again with ads and regulatory bashing that say as much about the dramatic shift in the technology industry's competitive landscape as they do about the animosity between the two rivals.

AP

This frame grab made available by Microsoft shows a scene from the latest in a series of scathing Microsoft ads against Google. The ads that say as much about the dramatic shift in the technology industry's competitive landscape as they do about the animosity between Microsoft and Google.

Microsoft assault on Google shows INDUSTRY SHIFT

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

The ads that began Tuesday mark the third phase in a 5-month-old marketing campaign that Microsoft Corp. derisively calls "Scroogled." The ads, which have appeared online, on television and in print, depict Google as a duplicitous company more interested in increasing profits and power than protecting people's privacy and providing unbiased search results.

This time, Microsoft is vilifying Google Inc. for sharing some of the personal information that it gathers about people who buy applications designed to run on smartphones and tablet computers powered by Google's Android software. Earlier ads have ripped Google's long-running practice of electronically scanning the contents of people's Gmail accounts to help sell ads. Other ads attacked a recently introduced policy that requires retailers to pay to appear in the shopping section of Google's dominant search engine.

"We think we have a better alternative that doesn't do these kinds of nefarious things," said Greg Sullivan, Microsoft's senior manager for Windows Phone, the business taking aim at Google's distribution of personal information about buyers of Android apps.

As Microsoft attacked Google in the United States, a group led by Microsoft asked European authorities to investigate whether Google has been using its free Android operating system to stifle competition from other mobile services besides its own. One such rival is Microsoft's Windows Phone system.

The barbs on both sides of the Atlantic could backfire. Even as they help draw attention to Google practices that may prod some consumers to try different services, they also serve as a reminder of Microsoft's mostly futile—and costly—attempts to trump its rival with more compelling technology.

"It's always the underdog that does negative advertising like this, and there is no doubt that Microsoft is now the underdog," said Jonathan Weber, who has been following Microsoft's "Scroogled" campaign at search consulting firm LunaMetrics.

On the flip side, Google has evolved from an endearing Internet startup to an imposing giant running Web and mobile services that vacuum intimate details about people's lives. Despite repeated management assurances about respecting personal privacy, Google has experienced several lapses that have resulted in regulatory fines, settlements and scorn around the world.

Beyond privacy, Google has been portrayed as an abusive bully in various complaints about its business practices.

On Tuesday, the Microsoft-led FairSearch group complained that Google has acted unfairly by requiring device makers relying on its Android software to install an entire suite of Google's mobile services, even if they just wanted one or two apps, such as Google Maps or YouTube. That still hasn't prevented device makers from redesigning Android to suit their own purposes. Amazon.com Inc., with its Kindle Fire, and Barnes & Noble Inc., with its Nook tablets, are among the companies selling Android products that don't feature Google services.

Microsoft's latest ads revolve around concerns already raised by privacy watchdogs. Critics argue that Google hasn't adequately disclosed that customers' names, email addresses and neighborhood locations are routinely sent to the makers of apps sold in Google's online Play store.

At least one group, Consumer Watchdog, has complained to the Federal Trade Commission that Google's apps practices represent an "egregious privacy violation." Citing agency policy, FTC spokesman Jay Mayfield declined to comment on whether the complaint has triggered a formal investigation.

"What Google is doing is a big problem, so I am glad Microsoft is helping to bring it to light," said John Simpson, Consumer Watchdog's privacy project director. "But Microsoft has its own problems. I certainly don't think they are doing this for altruistic reasons. They are clearly doing this for their own competitive purposes."

Google says it shares a limited amount of personal information about Android apps customers to ensure they get better service and faster responses if any problems arise. The company says the practice is allowed under its terms of service - a document that most people rarely read in its entirety.

Microsoft says it doesn't pass along personal details about customers buying apps for devices running its Windows Phone software. But there aren't as many Windows Phone users or apps for that system as there are for Android.

The notion of Microsoft being well behind Google once seemed inconceivable.

A decade ago, Microsoft was the world's most powerful technology company, with its Windows operating system and Office productivity software pervasive on personal computers. Microsoft's dominance had grown so extensive that U.S. and European antitrust regulators spent years trying to rein in the Redmond, Wash., software company.

Although Google was growing rapidly at the time, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and other skeptics dismissed the company as a "one-trick pony" that hadn't proven adept at doing anything besides searching the Web and selling ads next to the results.

Google, which is based in Mountain View, Calif., has since morphed into a multi-faceted juggernaut relentlessly trying to muscle into new markets. The company now runs the world's most watched online video service in YouTube, the largest email service in Gmail and the most widely used operating system for mobile devices in Android. All of those services provide more opportunities to show the ads that generate the bulk of Google's revenue. Google is now the company facing the scrutiny of regulators—and Microsoft has been active in making those complaints, including the one announced Tuesday.

"Google is certainly the biggest challenge that Microsoft has ever had to deal with," said Michael Cusumano, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management and author of several books about Microsoft.

Microsoft has tried to thwart Google by investing heavily in online services, to little avail. Since Google went public in August 2004, Microsoft's online division has accumulated more than $17.5 billion in operating losses. The losses include an accounting charge of more than $6 billion for Microsoft's acquisition of aQuantive, an online advertising service that didn't pan out.

Google, meanwhile, has been steadily increasing profits and share of the Internet search market. Google processes about two out of every three search requests in the U.S. and handles an even larger percentage of queries in many parts of Europe.

Although Microsoft has remained profitable companywide, the Windows franchise that provides its financial backbone has been weakening as a growing preference for smartphones and tablet computers undercuts sales of desktop and laptop computers. Besides doing damage with Android, Google is also trying to dent Microsoft by selling a less expensive, Internet-based alternative to Microsoft's Office suite. Google also is pushing a laptop operating system built on its popular Chrome Web browser in an attempt to divert even more sales away from Windows machines.

Microsoft has countered with a dramatic overhaul of the Windows operating system, one designed to bring tablet features such as touch screens to desktops and laptops. But Windows 8 has gotten off to a tepid start since its October release.

The changing fortunes of Microsoft and Google have been reflected in the stock market's appraisal of the two companies.

Google's market value has soared from nearly $25 billion at the time of its initial public offering in 2004 to nearly $260 billion. Microsoft's market value has fallen by about 17 percent during the same period, declining from nearly $300 billion at the time of Google's IPO to $249 billion today. Apple Inc., a rival of both Google and Microsoft, is the only technology company worth more than Google, with a market value hovering around $400 billion.

Microsoft's stock gained $1.02, or 3.6 percent, to close Tuesday at $29.61, while Google's added $2.80, or 0.4 percent, to $777.65.

Microsoft developed its anti-Google ad campaign shortly after hiring former political operative Mark Penn in August as a corporate strategist who reports directly to Ballmer. Penn is best known as a former pollster for President Bill Clinton and a campaign strategist for Hillary Clinton's unsuccessful bid for president in 2008. Penn left his job as CEO of public relations firm Burson-Marsteller to help Microsoft generate more usage of its Bing search engine and other online services.

Microsoft isn't saying how much it is spending on the ad campaign beyond saying the amount will run in the "multi-millions" of dollars.

Environment

Pew applauds conservation win for sharks, manta rays

BANGKOK, Thailand—Five species of sharks and two species of mantra rays will now be subject to international trade regulation under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES, a move that could save these threatened species from total collapse.

The required two-thirds of the 177 CITES member governments voted to protect these animals—the oceanic whitetip and porbeagle sharks, three species of hammerhead sharks, and the two species of manta rays—marking an increase in the number of sharks protected by CITES from three to eight species.

"This is a major win for some of the world's most threatened shark species, with action now required to control the international trade in their fins," said Susan Lieberman, director of international environment policy at The Pew Charitable Trusts. "This victory indicates that the global community will collaborate to address the plight of some of the most highly vulnerable sharks and manta ray species. This was the most significant day for the oceans in the 40-year history of CITES."

Lieberman added that the gridlock created by those who oppose such controls has been broken. Sharks are primarily traded to Asia for use in shark fin soup. Manta rays are caught and killed for their gill rakers—the part used to filter their food from the water—to make a purported Asian health tonic.

"The tide is now turning for shark conservation—with governments listening to the science and acting in the interest of species conservation and sustainability," said Elizabeth Wilson, manager of Pew's global shark campaign. "With these new protections, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, and hammerhead sharks will have the chance to recover and once again fulfill their role as top predators in the marine ecosystem."

Pew added that this commitment by the global community to shark conservation needs to be fully implemented and enforced, and it should be coupled with national and regional efforts to ensure a sustainable future for these and other top oceanic predators, all of which are critical for the health of the wider marine ecosystem.

According to the *International Union for Conservation of Nature*, 143 shark species are threatened with extinction, but few management measures exist to protect them. ***(Pew Charitable Trusts)***

SHAWN HEINRICHS/PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Many of these fins come from pelagic shark species. According to the IUCN, over 50 percent of pelagic sharks are Threatened or Near Threatened with extinction.

Most in US concerned about sea level rise, poll finds

By NEELA BANERJEE
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—An overwhelming majority of Americans is convinced that sea level rise resulting from climate change poses a significant threat to the United States and that coastal communities should invest in preparing for the risks, according to a survey released Thursday by Stanford University.

The study was conducted with memories still fresh of Hurricane Sandy's vast damage and protracted, expensive rebuilding, whose cost was picked up largely by taxpayers.

Although past surveys have asked Americans if they accept climate change to be a global reality, the survey by Stanford's Woods Institute for the Environment focuses on attitudes about one of its effects—sea level rise—and the options to deal with it. The responses, taken together, indicated that most Americans were no longer willing to accept a hands-off approach to continued coastal development that will get battered repeatedly by rising seas.

"People want preventive action," said survey director Jon Krosnick, a senior fellow at the institute and a professor of communication, "and few people believe these preparations will harm the economy or eliminate jobs. But people want coastal homeowners and businesses that locate in high-risk areas to pay for these measures."

Counties along the shoreline, not including in Alaska, make up less than 10 percent of the country's total land area. But they are home to 123.3 million people, or 39 percent of the population. The coastal population is expected to grow by 8 percent, or 10 million people, by 2020, according to a recent study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The nationwide poll of 1,200 people found that 82 percent believe the world's temperature is rising, and 73 percent said that the associated sea level rise poses a threat to the United States now and in the future. Nearly three-quarters of respondents said they think sea level rise will worsen storm damage.

Asked whether coastal communities and states should prepare for the effects of sea level rise or, given the unpredictability of weather events, wait to assess the impact, 82 percent favored advance preparation.

More than two-thirds of respondents said that coastal communities should foot the bill for boosting their defenses against sea level rise. Right now, all taxpayers subsidize flood insurance bought by residents of coastal communities, and then pay billions of dollars in evacuation and cleanup costs.

The survey provided respondents with the pros and cons of a range of common adaptation measures. Some involved building buffers against the sea, such as sea walls or beach replenishment, but only one-third of respondents favored them. Instead, the most popular ideas focused on changing building practices, such as reducing construction on coastlines and beefing up flood protection standards of coastal structures.

"The question is, how does public support for preparation translate to action?" asked Meg Caldwell, executive director of the Center for Ocean Solutions, a Monterey, Calif., environmental group that cosponsored the survey. "Our impulse is to try to move quickly to put communities back together the way they were after devastation. But that impulse often leads to doubling down on high-risk investments, such as rebuilding in areas likely to experience severe impacts."

DO YOUR PART

Small space gardening

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Want to grow some of your own food but think you don't have enough space? Do Your Part and think small! That's because some of the biggest flavors can actually grow in the smallest of places. So whether you're living in an apartment or you just don't have the biggest backyard in the world—there are easy ways to get in on the grow-your-own food revolution.

It's best to start simply—with just a sunny window. Small flowerpots are perfect for growing herbs. Almost all herbs can thrive in these small containers. And, having your favorite herbs on hand in the kitchen is convenient and economical. No more wasting money on bunches of herbs from the grocery store that will go to waste if they aren't all used. Window boxes are another smart solution for those with less space to grow. You can buy all sorts of different varieties at hardware stores or make your own. You can easily grow herbs in these too or use them to grow dwarf varieties of your favorite vegetables.

If you have a sunny spot outdoors, say on a deck or porch, then you can think a little bigger. Flowerpots outdoors can yield everything from herbs, lettuce, tomatoes, and strawberries. Just remember, the bigger the foods you want to grow (think cucumbers and tomatoes) the bigger the pots you'll need. Foods such as peppers or greens thrive in small containers. Or, you can literally turn your garden upside down and use hanging baskets to grow even more foods. The most important thing is to make sure your growing spot gets a minimum of six hours of sunlight a day.

For areas where you have a little more room to grow—consider raised garden boxes. With just a few feet, you can grow an incredible amount of food and you'll have fewer weeds and pests to handle. You can also create raised beds that are several feet off the ground so it's less taxing on your back as you garden. Consider adding a few trellises so you can grow crops such as beans and peas vertically. Check out DoYourPart.com/Columns to see a list of some of the easiest foods to grow at home.

What I enjoy the most about my garden is that I know exactly what's going into the food I grow and, ultimately, eat. I always opt for organic seeds to start with and use only natural pesticides and fertilizers. That way, when I prepare my fruits and vegetables for my family, I know that the food is free of any toxins. Do Your Part to grow your own foods at home—you'll soon see how easy, economical, and tasty it truly is.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A Practical Guide for Everyday Green Living *available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.*

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Life & Style

Morocco actor amused by Satan-Obama comparisons

By PAUL SCHEMM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP)—Mehdi Ouazzani isn't the devil, but he has played one on TV—only he didn't realize that some thought he looked like President Barack Obama while he was at it.

A veteran Moroccan actor with decades of film experience, Ouazzani was bemused to wake up one morning and find that his role in The History Channel's popular five-part miniseries "The Bible" had become the latest way for conservative commentators in the United States to needle the president.

"One morning somebody called me and said 'you have to look at your email' and I was so surprised," Ouazzani told The Associated Press in Casablanca before jetting off to the remote desert town of Erfoud, where he's playing a police inspector in a German crime drama.

"For someone like me, a simple unknown actor, to find himself in a controversy like this—even though it's nonsense—it makes me known around the world, so it's something positive," he said with a chuckle.

With gray hair pulled back in a ponytail, an expressive face and a slim Errol Flynn-style pencil mustache, Ouazzani doesn't look a great deal like America's 44th president—but then he doesn't resemble a stereotypical Satan very much either.

It was only after an hour and a half of makeup and a heavy hooded robe in Morocco's blazing desert that Ouazzani became the figure on a mountain top tempting Jesus.

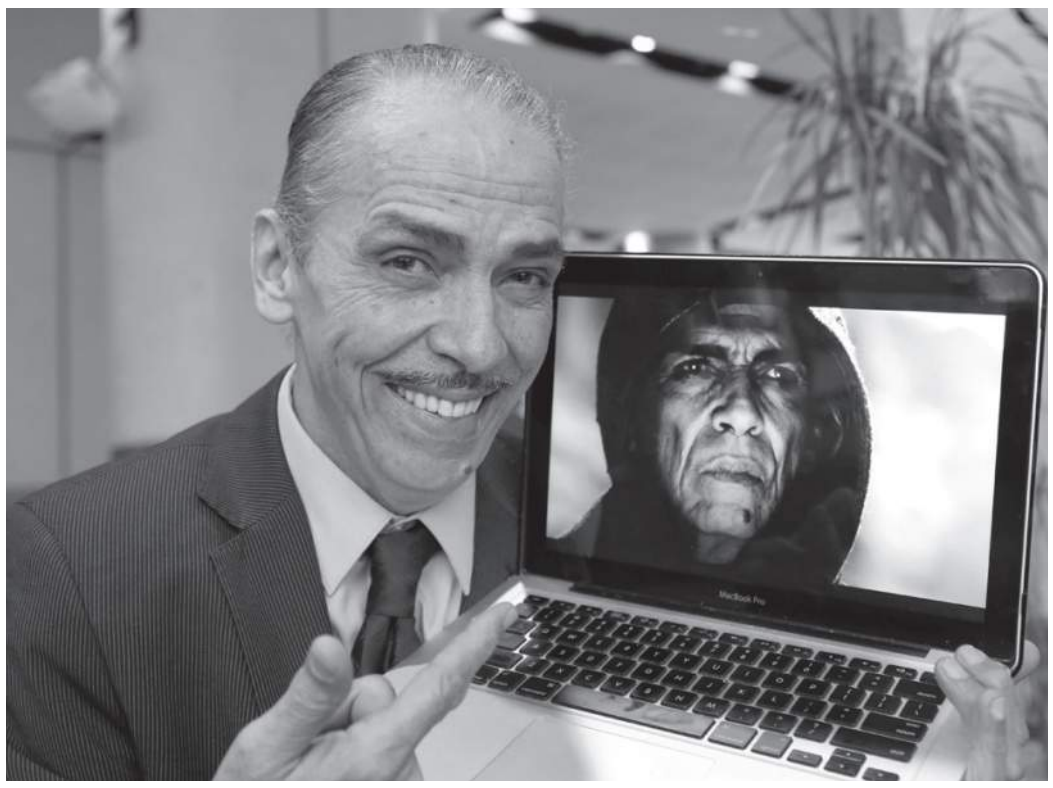
It's this new look that laid the stage for the Obama comparisons.

After the episode aired in mid-March, conservative firebrand commentator Glenn Beck tweeted to millions of his followers : "Does Satan look EXACTLY like Obama? Yes!" The cry was taken up by others and provoked a fierce response from Obama's supporters that compelled the History Channel to announce it had "the highest respect" for Obama, and "it's unfortunate that anyone made this false connection."

Part of the resonance of the controversy was the sheer success of the miniseries, which had 13 million viewers for its first episode—beating out even "American Idol." The final episode, featuring the passion of Christ, aired on Easter, March 31, and had 11.7 million viewers—competing handily with the season finale of cable favorite "The Walking Dead."

Conservative television personalities Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity were still talking about it weeks later on their shows, with Hannity telling "The Bible" executive producer Roma Downey that he, too, thought the program's Satan resembled Obama.

In a statement, Downey maintained that she and fellow producer and husband Mark Burnett "have nothing but respect and love our president, who is a fellow Christian," adding that "false statements such as these are just designed as a foolish distraction to try and discredit the beauty of the story of the Bible."



AP

Moroccan actor Mehdi Ouazzani poses with a frame from his role during an interview with the Associated Press in Casablanca, Morocco Monday, April, 1, 2013.

It's not Ouazzani's first tour through the pages of Christianity's holy book. He appeared in the 2006 mini-series "Ten Commandments" and the 2000 production "In the Beginning," as well as a string of other biblical productions in the 1990s.

Previous film productions have taken advantage of this North African country's stark deserts and lush palm groves to recreate ancient Palestine. "I've seen several different Jesuses and Judases and I've played Satanic characters before, I played Judas."

Still, Ouazzani found playing Satan this time quite a challenge, as he tried to convey intensity with little more than his eyes, delivering the devil's grim temptations to Jesus in sepulchral tones.

"I have a very expressive face, when African or Moroccan people talk, we talk with our faces," he said, describing his scenes as the prince of darkness playing opposite Portuguese actor Diogo Morgado's Jesus. "Satan taught me how to manage my close-ups, because Satan didn't feel anything, didn't suffer anything."

Ouazzani's face lights up as he talks about the filming, displaying little real-life resemblance to his gloomy character in the movie.

Ouazzani praised the producers and the professionalism on the set, which dealt with its own set of challenges, including Morocco's ample desert serpent population.

"Before you go to the set, there was a special person who knows about serpents and scorpions and they go through and clean everything," said Ouazzani, describing how one of the snake wranglers even caught one in the middle of production.

"He came into the middle of the set, he looked around and then went running and took up a snake from under the sand with his hand," he said.

Ouzzani said working on a series like "The Bible" has been particularly enjoyable because it gives him a taste of the Hollywood system—something many Moroccan actors yearn to do.

"Hollywood is the only cinema where I really feel like an actor," he said, "the rest feels do-it-yourself."

While dozens of American productions have been shot in Morocco, including "Gladiator," ''Kingdom of Heaven," ''Blackhawk Down," ''The Bourne Ultimatum" and most recently the TV series "Game of Thrones," they feature comparatively few Moroccan actors.

Ouazzani ascribes being cast to luck and knowing the right people—but speaking French, Spanish, Italian, English and Arabic hasn't hurt. He credits his time as a flight attendant for the national airline, Royal Air Maroc, with putting him in daily touch with people from all over the world.

He started acting in his 20s and has appeared on the Spanish stage, played a police inspector in French movies, and will play a terrorist leader in an upcoming Spanish film about the 2011 bombing of a tourist cafe in Marrakech.

And who knows, maybe a chance comment by a conservative commentator will open the gates to Hollywood.

"Some good has come out of this," he said, adding with a twinkle in his eye: "Before, I knew who Obama was, and now he knows me, and if he has time I'd like to invite him and his family for couscous in Morocco."

Julio Iglesias: I'm not a natural born singer

INDIAN CREEK, Fla. (AP)—In Julio Iglesias' recipe for success, talent is only a tiny ingredient. And although the Spanish crooner says singing was not an innate gift for him, he says he's gotten better—and he wants to show that to fans with his latest album.

"Good timing is the first thing you need in order to achieve success," says one of the 10 best selling Latin artist in history. "Then you need good luck and then a little talent ... and a lot of passion, a lot of drive, and discipline."

In a recent interview with The Associated Press at his luxurious house on the island of Indian Creek, Iglesias spoke about the reasons he recorded "1 - Greatest Hits", a double CD with songs he made popular in English, Spanish, French and Italian, like "Begin the Beguine (Volver a Empezar)," ''Crazy," ''Hey," ''Me Olvide de Vivir," and "Me Va, Me Va."

"I wanted to be practical and sing better the songs that deserved to be better sung," he said.

He also said he didn't care much about critics anymore and spoke about his fear of sleep, his next birthday and why he wouldn't sing with his famous son, Enrique.

AP: What would you like to say with this album?

Iglesias: Nothing. I want to make things better. I want people to know that I sing better, that sound today is a lot better. I don't want anyone to hide my voice in 20 years and put the orchestra they want in. I don't want anyone to do dirty tricks with my music. I want to do it myself.

AP: Throughout all these years, your profession surely has given you many things and also taken things away from you.

Iglesias: It has taken nothing... How unfair it would be for a guy like me to say...

AP: Hasn't it taken time from you with your family?

Iglesias: Not at all. My family has all the time in the world. My family lives the way it lives because I have this time marginalized for them, not in a sense of reproach but happiness. All my children and all my direct family must be really happy that I spent less time (with them).

Iglesias

AP: What did your career give you?

Iglesias: The gaze of the people. The applause, the recognition. When I go to a restaurant and they give me the freshest food (laughs). No, what this career has given me is the chance to know people inside and out; the looks with just the eyes, the cultures. If I ride with you in an elevator and there are six different cultures, I get five right for sure. That's wonderful.

AP: What makes you happy?

Iglesias: (Silence) No, no, happiness for me is not a special motivation. There are things way more important than happiness. Emotion is much more important ... Excitement and passion is 100 times better than happiness.

AP: And what excites you?

Iglesias: Many things. Waking up, that excites me a lot because I don't like to sleep.

AP: Are you afraid of not waking up?

Iglesias: I am afraid precisely of ... the time I lose, the fear that I don't like to go to sleep, I don't feel like it, I don't want to.

AP: How many hours do you sleep at night?

Iglesias: Oooh, I must sleep four. Very little.

AP: What makes you go on?

Iglesias: Discipline. Success.

AP: Are you afraid to lose it?

Iglesias: Not anymore. The only thing I'm going to lose at this point is life. It's not a very modest answer, but is a fair one. After three generations, there will always be a place where I can sing for 10 people at any club in Stockholm or any little corner of your country in Syria. There will always be a moment, there will always be people for me. Less, much less probably, but even if there are 100 I communicate.

AP: You turn 70 this year. Is this something special or just one more number for you?

Iglesias: It is crap. 70 years. (He pauses). Not an easy number, 70. Nor was easy 60, or even 50. I think I haven't had an easy number because I've had to learn how to live continuously. I wasn't born knowing. There are people who are born with everything in place but I was born with all the pieces separated and I have been putting them together. And now that I'm 70 I am approaching that crossword where many things get completed. And I don't want to get things completed, because the day I do I will get screwed.

AP: How do you view your son Enrique's career?

Iglesias: Enrique is magical. Enrique is like that miracle to a parent... We want our children to be successful and stand out, but as much as we can imagine it we can never think that our own children will have such an outstanding success.

AP: When are you going to sing together?

Iglesias: My son and I singing together is something that may seem very commercial, (but) I think that neither he nor me are going to do it, ever. ... I don't believe in a commercial duet between myself and my children.

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Jurassic Park 3D

Friday		7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday & Thursday		7:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Steven Spielberg's phenomenally successful sci-fi adventure thriller is graced by state-of-the-art special effects from the team of Stan Winston, Phil Tippett and Michael Lantieri from George Lucas's Industrial Light & Magic. The film follows two dinosaur experts – Dr. Alan Grant (Sam Neill) and Dr. Ellie Sattler Laura Dern)– as they are invited by eccentric millionaire John Hammond (Richard Attenborough) to preview his new amusement park on an island off Costa Rica.

Jurassic Park 2D

Friday		4:00	
Saturday		4:00	
Sunday		4:00	
Monday & Thursday		4:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Evil Dead

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday & Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Lou Taylor Pucci, Jessica Lucas, Liz Blackmore
Genre: Horror • Rated R

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Host

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday & Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Max Irons, Jake Abel
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Tyler Perry's Temptation

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday & Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Vanessa Williams
Genre: Drama • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday		7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday & Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday		4:25	
Saturday		4:25	
Sunday		4:25	
Monday & Thursday		4:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

The Croods 3D

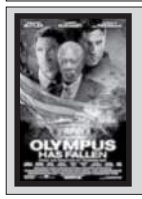
Friday		7:15	
Saturday	1:15	7:15	
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday & Thursday		7:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

The Croods 2D

Friday		4:15	9:30
Saturday		4:15	9:30
Sunday		4:15	
Monday & Tuesday		4:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



Olympus Has Fallen

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday & Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

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Brad Paisley-LL Cool J draw ire with song on bias

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Country singer Brad Paisley says he was trying to foster an open discussion of race relations when he collaborated with rapper LL Cool J on "Accidental Racist."

The new song about racial perceptions has drawn ire from both the country and urban music worlds after its wide release this week. Paisley, the singer-songwriter known for his white cowboy hat and virtuoso guitar work, gave his first interview Tuesday since the hubbub began on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" after briefly addressing the debate Monday night on Twitter.

"I felt like when we were writing this song, it wasn't necessarily up to the media and I don't really trust Hollywood ... or talk radio or anything like that to sort of deal with that anymore," Paisley said on the show. "I think it's music's turn to have the conversation."

The song appears on Paisley's new self-produced album "Wheelhouse," released Tuesday. It's his most ambitious album so far and the progressive message of "Accidental Racist" is in line with opinions the 40-year-old West Virginia-born singer has expressed before in interviews and songs.

AP

This Nov. 1, 2012 file photo shows Brad Paisley hosting the 46th Annual Country Music Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.

Of the album, Paisley wrote on Twitter, "I hope it triggers emotions," and says he wouldn't change a thing about it: "This is a record meant to be FAR from easy listening. But fun. Like life. Have a ball, ya'll."

At its heart, "Accidental Racist" is about how cultural symbols favored by whites and blacks—the fashion choice of wearing Confederate flags or baggy pants, for instance—come loaded with meaning.

It's not a new discussion. Though race relations have evolved over the decades, cultural symbols continue to color perceptions.

Paisley uses the Confederate flag as an example in the song, noting whites are "caught between Southern pride and Southern blame" 150 years after the end of the American Civil War. The conflict was launched by secessionist pro-slavery southern states and ended with the abolishment of slavery.

"I try to put myself in your shoes and that's a good place to begin," Paisley sings, "but it ain't like I can walk a mile in someone else's skin/Because I'm a white man livin' in the southland/Just like you I'm more than what it seems/I'm proud of where I'm from/But not everything we've done/It ain't like you and me can rewrite history/Our generation didn't start this nation/We're still paying for mistakes that a bunch of folks made long before we came."

Yo-Yo Ma joins rocker to call for US arts funding

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Guns N' Roses drummer Matt Sorum joined cellist Yo-Yo Ma on Capitol Hill on Tuesday to urge lawmakers to increase funding for the arts in a year of deep federal budget cuts.

The rocker and classical musician played a jam session briefly together for a gathering of legislators and arts advocates from across the country who planned to visit congressional offices. They performed with bagpiper Cristina Pato and dancing star Lil Buck.

Sorum said his mother was a music teacher and that his high school classes in orchestra, jazz and marching band were critical in launching his career in music and in business. More recently he has started a charity to support arts education in Los Angeles. Guns N' Roses was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland last year.

Sorum said he was excited to visit Washington to press Congress for funding.

"This is the coolest thing I've done since Madison Square Garden, I've got to say. Slash is going to be really jealous," he said, referring to the lead guitarist from Guns N' Roses and now the group Velvet Revolver. "If I can navigate the music business, I'm going to have fun navigating Congress."

The group Americans for the Arts is pushing for funding to be restored to $155 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Last year each agency received about $146 million and lost about $7 million of that due to Congress' automatic budget cuts.

House Republican budget leaders have called for eliminating the two agencies altogether.

Still, Republican Rep. Leonard Lance of New Jersey joined advocates Tuesday, saying the arts benefit the entire nation.

Arts programs face a daunting budget environment. With the $7 million in automatic budget cuts, each endowment stands at $139 million for the current fiscal year. Overall, each has lost about $30 million in annual funding since 2010. It's an even bigger drop since the endowments' high point of $176 million in arts funding in 1992.

Ma has pressed for greater focus and funding for the arts in education, joining a White House initiative to help turn around failing schools with arts programs. He also called for including the arts with the educational emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math. Creativity connects the other subjects, Ma said, and helps students become self-motivated and innovative.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending April 8, 2013:

TOP SONGS

1. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
2. "Just Give Me a Reason (feat. Nate Ruess)," P!nk
3. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
4. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
5. "Cruise (Remix) (feat. Nelly)," Florida Georgia Line
6. "Can't Hold Us (feat. Ray Dalton)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
7. "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons
8. "Suit & Tie (feat. JAY Z)," Justin Timberlake
9. "I Love It (feat. Charli XCX)," Icona Pop
10. "Feel This Moment (feat. Christina Aguilera)," Pitbull

TOP ALBUMS

1. "The 20/20 Experience," Justin Timberlake
2. " Wolf", Tyler, The Creator
3. "Based On a True Story." Blake Shelton
4. "Pioneer," The Band Perry
5. "Night Visions," Imagine Dragons
6. "I Am Not a Human Being II," Lil Wayne
7. "The Truth About Love," P!nk
8. "The Heist," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
9. "Indicud," Kid Cudi
10. "Disarm the Descent," Killswitch Engage

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending April 8, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
2. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
3. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
4. What's the Phrase (Zynga Inc.)
5. Slayin (FDG Entertainment)
6. Plague Inc. (Ndemic Creations)
7. Toca Hair Salon 2 (Toca Boca AB)
8. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
9. Arms Cartel Global (Pixel Addicts)
10. Sleep Cycle alarm clock (Maciek Drejak Labs)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. Sonic Dash (SEGA)
2. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
3. Vine (Vine Labs, Inc.)
4. Injustice: Gods Among Us (Warner Bros.)
5. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
6. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
7. Skee-Ball 2 (Freeverse, Inc.)
8. Real Basketball (Mobil Interaktif)
9. Instagram (Burbn, Inc.)
10. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
2. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
3. Wreck-it Ralph (Disney)
4. Toca Hair Salon 2 (Toca Boca AB)
5. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)
6. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
7. Pages (Apple)
8. What's the Phrase (Zynga Inc.)
9. BADLAND (Frogmind)
10. Magicka (Paradox Interactive)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Injustice: Gods Among Us (Warner Bros.)
2. Sonic Dash (SEGA)
3. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
4. Toca Tailor (Toca Boca AB)
5. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
6. Princess Makeover (Ninjafish Studios)
7. Frontline Commando: D-Day (Glu Games Inc.)
8. CBS (CBS Interactive)
9. Calculator for iPad Free (International Travel Weather Calculator)
10. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)

Stephen Colbert lures Bill Clinton to Twitter

AP

This April 6, 2013 file photo shows former President Bill Clinton, left, and Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert during the Clinton Global Initiative at Washington University in St. Louis.

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill Clinton is now on Twitter, albeit without a very presidential name.

Comedian Stephen Colbert lured the former president to the social networking site on "The Colbert Report" on Monday, signing him up with the handle PrezBillyJeff. Clinton dictated his first message to Colbert, who typed: "Just spent an amazing time with Colbert! Is he sane? He is cool!"

Whether Clinton would continue to use the account remained uncertain. Colbert's hand is clearly in the account's bio, too. It reads: "Stephen Colbert is my BFF."

By Tuesday morning, the account had amassed nearly 50,000 followers and was climbing fast.

Colbert interviewed Clinton not in his New York studio, but at the annual Clinton Global Initiative University gathering in St. Louis. The interview had been taped Saturday.

Lohan tells Letterman rehab is a 'blessing'

Lohan

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan is going into rehab next month, but first she had to face TV talk show host David Letterman.

In an appearance taped for Tuesday's "Late Show," Lohan was pressed by Letterman about her upcoming rehab stint. She faces a 90-day stay as part of a plea deal in a misdemeanor traffic accident case.

Letterman tried to draw Lohan out, asking how many times she'd been in rehab, how this time would differ, and what she's being treated for.

Lohan looked uncomfortable and said she didn't expect Letterman's line of questioning.

But she said that she wants to be healthy and focus on what she loves—her work. She added that she looks at rehab as "a blessing and not a curse."

CBS released a partial clip of the interview before it aired.

Treasury: Beyonce, Jay-Z Cuba trip licensed

MIAMI (AP)—U.S. Treasury officials say the trip by Beyonce and Jay-Z to Cuba was licensed as an educational exchange.

Assistant Treasury Secretary Alastair Fitzpayne wrote in a letter Tuesday to congressional representatives that the famous hip-hop couple traveled to Cuba with a group authorized by the Office of Foreign Assets Control to promote people-to-people contact in Cuba.

The letter was released Tuesday by U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (ih-lay-AH'-nah rahs LAY'-tih-nehn).

Ros-Lehtinen and U.S. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (dee-AZ' bah-LART'), both Florida Republicans, had expressed concerns to the Treasury Department about the trip and wanted to know if it was licensed.

Beyonce and Jay-Z marked their fifth wedding anniversary in Havana last week. U.S. citizens are not allowed to travel to Cuba for mere tourism, though they can obtain licenses for academic, religious, journalistic or cultural exchange trips. The so-called people-to-people licenses were reinstated under the Obama administration.

Kardashian, mom, on witness list in divorce case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian's upcoming divorce trial will be a family affair, but her attorneys do not expect to call her famous sisters to testify about the reality star's brief marriage to NBA player Kris Humphries.

But Kris Jenner, Kardashian's mother, and several lawyers and managers are expected to testify about the pair's relationship and prenuptial agreement, according to a witness list filed Monday in Los Angeles.

Humphries is seeking an annulment of the pair's 72-day marriage, claiming it was based on fraud. Kardashian wants a judge to enter a divorce judgment instead and has denied accusations that she married Humphries for the sake of her reality shows.

She will testify that she "did not defraud (Humphries) into marrying her," the filing by Kardashian's legal team states.

Kardashian's boyfriend, Kanye West, and her sisters Kourtney and Khloe are not listed as probable witnesses.

Kardashian and West, who has been deposed in the case, are expecting a baby in July. Humphries' lawyers attempted to serve West a deposition subpoena disguised in a Nordstrom's box last year, just one of the incidents that have contributed to acrimony between Kardashian and Humphries since she filed for divorce in October 2011.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Stars ask to help Obama change drug, jail policy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lil Wayne, Ron Howard, Scarlett Johansson and Kim Kardashian are all on the same page when it comes to criminal justice reform. They're among more than 100 entertainers calling on the president to focus on changing drug laws. Rap mogul Russell Simmons helped assemble the coalition of celebrities and civil rights leaders that presented a letter to President Barack Obama on Tuesday. The group praises the president's efforts toward drug incarceration reform but insists "the time is right" to move toward replacing jail sentences with intervention and rehabilitation for non-violent offenders. The starry group, which also includes Jennifer Hudson, Nicki Minaj, Susan Sarandon and Will Smith, also asks Obama to form a panel to handle clemency requests and to support a measure that allows judges to waive mandatory minimum sentences.

David Axelrod book planned for 2014

NEW YORK (AP)—One of President Barack Obama's top advisers and strategists during his first term has a book deal. David Axelrod is working on a memoir scheduled for fall 2014. At least two other former Obama administration officials, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Timothy Geithner, also have books planned next year. Penguin Press announced Axelrod's book Tuesday. According to Penguin, Axelrod will write about his long friendship with Obama and offer his views on elections and government. Axelrod helped run Obama's successful campaigns in 2008 and 2012 and worked as an adviser to the president during his first term. The 58-year-old former political writer and ex-columnist for the Chicago Tribune recently joined NBC News as a senior political analyst.

Mick Fleetwood files for separation from wife

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show Mick Fleetwood has filed for legal separation from his wife of more than 17 years in Los Angeles. Fleetwood and Lynn Frankel Fleetwood have been married since July 1995 and have twin 11-year-old daughters together. He is seeking joint legal custody but wants his estranged wife to have physical custody of their children. The Fleetwood Mac drummer filed for separation on March 22, but the documents were not publicly available until Tuesday. He does not list a date for the couple's separation but wants a judge to award him sole control of music royalties and other earnings from before their marriage. The 65-year-old Grammy Award winner cites irreconcilable differences for the separation, but no other details are included in the filing.

Ex-'Pretty Little Liars' actor pleads guilty in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—A former actor on ABC's "Pretty Little Liars" has pleaded guilty to misdemeanor larceny for lifting $7,000 in electronics and jewelry from a friend's Manhattan apartment. Parker Bagley took the plea on Monday in Manhattan Criminal Court. As part of the plea, the 23-year-old agreed to pay half of the $7,000 on Monday. The remainder is due in June. He had faced 3rd-degree grand larceny, which carries up to seven years in prison. Bagley quipped outside court: "I'm just glad they didn't find the bodies. That would have been bad." Bagley starred as Jason in the teen mystery drama. He says he's now focusing on his music.

Beholder doesn't see beauty in earlobes stretched large

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I would like to know what the fascination is with putting plugs in one's earlobes. I have seen some as large as half dollar coins. What does the person do if he regrets having done this to his ears? Can the holes be surgically closed?

UNPIERCED IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

DEAR UNPIERCED: I spoke to James Wisniewski of the Body Electric Tattoo piercing studio in Los Angeles. He told me that, as with any type of body modification, the ear plugs are a matter of personal taste.

The process is referred to as "stretching," and James has had his earlobes this way for the past 14 years. He says he is asked about the procedure on a daily basis. He is attracted to it for the aesthetics. The modification is a gradual process, with larger jewelry being inserted as the hole becomes larger.

James recommends consulting a plastic surgeon if someone decides to have the hole closed because new tissue is grown as a result of the earlobe stretching. The extra skin may have to be removed in the same way as after a major weight loss.

DEAR ABBY: I am 17 and I want to start writing a book about things I have been through in my life. My family is all for it, but my friends are against it. I am torn about what I should do. I feel if I write this book it will help kids my age who may have been through some of the same things I have.

Should I go through with it or not because my friends think it's a stupid idea? I know I'm not exactly the smartest person and getting a publisher is difficult, but does that make it a stupid idea to try? What should I do?

CONFLICTED IN INDIANA

DEAR CONFLICTED: Your reason for wanting to write a book is a valid one and you should proceed with it regardless of what your friends think. It will help you organize your thoughts, and if you show your chapters to your English teacher, you can effectively sharpen your writing skills.

Worrying about a publisher now is putting the cart before the horse. While it might be helpful for other teens to read, I promise you that even if the book isn't published, it will become a treasured time capsule containing the thoughts that were important to you during this formative period of your life. Some people your age start writing in diaries or journals and continue doing it throughout their lives.

DEAR ABBY: What is the correct response when asked at a doctor's office or hospital if you drink? I drink socially, maybe once a month. Should I say yes? If I do, I'm afraid it will imply that I drink more often.

I always end up feeling awkward and like I need to explain myself. I'm pretty proud telling them I don't smoke or do drugs, but the alcohol question always gets me. What do other people who drink on occasion usually say?

FILLING OUT THE FORMS IN OHIO

DEAR FILLING: In my doctor's office I was asked that question, and my response was, "Yes, OCCASIONALLY." At that point, the follow-up question was, "How many drinks do you have a week?" Because this particular question makes you uncomfortable, mention to your physician that you indulge in alcohol only about once a month—which is practically negligible.

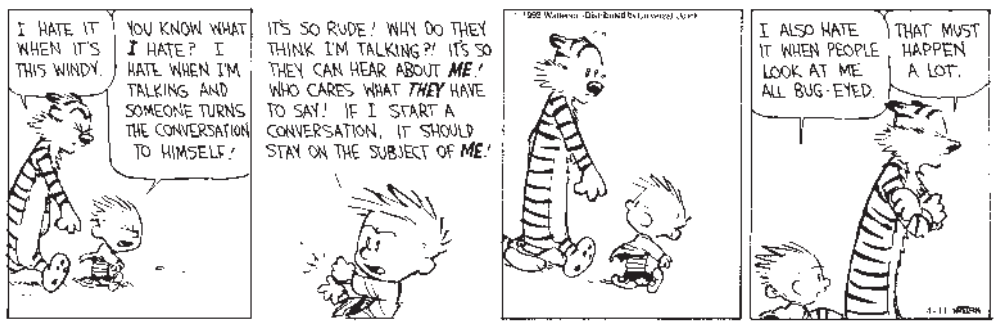
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

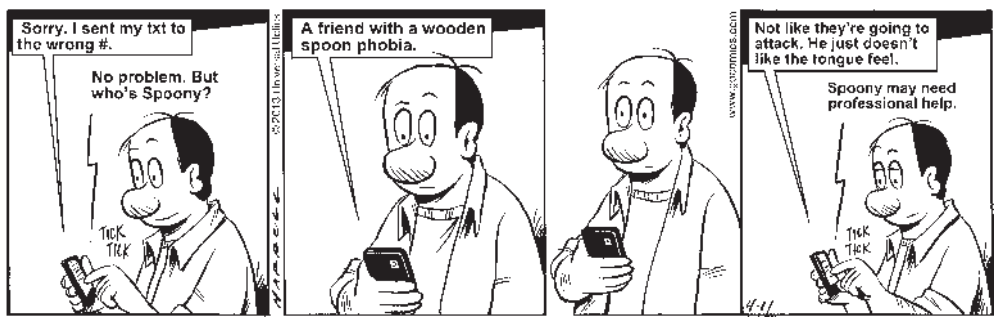

I HATE IT WHEN IT'S THIS WINDY.
YOU KNOW WHAT I HATE? I HATE WHEN I'M TALKING AND SOMEONE TURNS THE CONVERSATION TO HIMSELF!
IT'S SO RUDE! WHY DO THEY THINK I'M TALKING?! IT'S SO THEY CAN HEAR ABOUT ME! WHO CARES WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY! IF I START A CONVERSATION, IT SHOULD STAY ON THE SUBJECT OF ME!
I ALSO HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT ME ALL BUG-EYED.
THAT MUST HAPPEN A LOT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

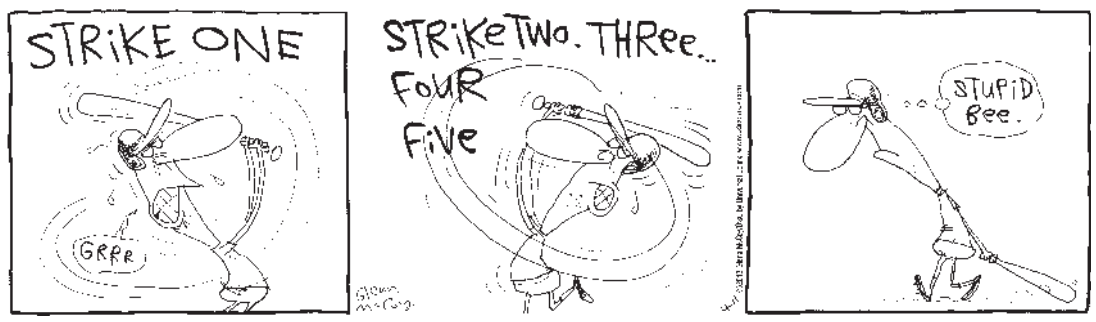
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Sorry. I sent my txt to the wrong #.
No problem. But who's Spoony?
TICK TICK
A friend with a wooden spoon phobia.
Not like they're going to attack. He just doesn't like the tongue feel.
Spoony may need professional help.
TICK TICK

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Old love boat
4 Cattle comments
8 Dispatch
12 Luau side dish
13 Reed instrument
14 Inlet
15 Small
17 Enthusiastic
18 Eviscerate
19 Soon
21 Rook
24 Potential syrup
25 Roman 52
26 Thanksgiving veggie
28 Pass along
32 Ricelike pasta
34 — Mahal
36 Cannonball, maybe
37 Color workers
39 High-pitched bark
41 A mere handful
42 Mimic
44 Bets
46 Poetic feet
50 Existed
51 Tangelo trademark
52 Do some firing
56 Sandwich cookie
57 Great Lake
58 Londoner's letter
59 Cut, as logs
60 Tear to bits
61 Type measures

DOWN
1 Smartphone download
2 Marseilles monarch
3 Huge
4 Pretty much
5 Japanese sash
6 Leak slowly
7 Prophets
8 Resold for big profits
9 Corporate symbol
10 Shakespeare's river
11 Safecracker
16 Historic boy king
20 Listener
21 Lummox
22 Ethereal
23 Dine on
27 Has permission
29 Of natural dimensions
30 State with certainty
31 Some evergreens
33 Speech
35 Mandible
38 Agent
40 Hocked
43 Church leader
45 Petrol
46 Twosomes
47 City in India
48 Ball of yarn
49 Angry
53 Triumph
54 Buddhist sect
55 Wood and Wynn

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	I	Z	■	C	L	A	D	■	U	G	I	■
O	R	E	■	Y	E	T	I	■	R	O	A	R
D	A	B	■	C	A	M	F	I	R	A	C	K
E	Q	U	A	L	■	■	S	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	O	C	S	■	E	N	A	C	T
W	O	L	F	P	A	C	K	■	E	U	R	O
A	K	A	■	S	L	O	W	S	■	R	O	O
L	A	I	N	■	F	L	A	P	J	A	C	K
L	Y	R	I	C	■	D	I	E	U	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	A	P	■	■	A	G	I	N	G
H	A	V	E	R	S	A	C	K	■	C	O	N
I	D	O	L	■	S	L	U	E	■	E	T	A
P	O	L	Y	■	T	I	E	R	■	D	E	W

Yesterday's answer 4-11

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18			■	19		20				
21	22				23	■	24			■	■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28		29	30	31
32			33	■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40	■	41		
■	■	■	42		43	■	44		45			
46	47	48				49	■	50			■	■
51				■	52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joss Stone, 26; Tricia Helfer, 39; Jennifer Esposito, 40; Joel Grey, 81

Happy Birthday: Refuse to let anyone put demands on your time and avoid being stubborn or putting up with impatient, unyielding people. Following what feels right will lead you in a direction you won't regret. Use your energy wisely, not vengefully. By putting it to good use, you can turn your dreams into reality. Overindulgence is your enemy. Your numbers are 3, 11, 23, 26, 35, 38, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Collect your thoughts before you decide to make a move. Impatience will lead to mistakes. Consider what you must do to reduce the pressure being put on you by colleagues, friends or someone in an influential position. Show your leadership ability. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Use your imagination if you want something. A creative approach will capture attention and expand your audience. Emotions may not be easy to control, but showing your passion will end up being an asset. Don't underestimate the competition. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Limit what and how you do things. Too much of anything will be your downfall. Getting involved in a cause you feel passionate about will help take your mind off personal issues that have the potential to spin out of control. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A diplomatic approach to whatever you do and whoever you deal with will help you avoid unnecessary last-minute changes that can derail your plans. Slow and steady progress will come with compromise and understanding. Avoid aggressive behavior. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your generosity will not help you when you are out of cash. Love is in the stars, but ulterior motives are also present. Keep your emotions in check. Focus on you for a change and what you can do to improve. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Ask questions if you want a straight answer. Money must be put to good use. Impulsive purchases, lending or borrowing will lead to stress and added pressure. Reevaluate your position and what you can do to secure and stabilize your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Avoid pressure situations. Listen intently and give great thought to your response. Abrupt and impulsive actions will not bode well with personal or professional partners. Back away from anyone treating you disrespectfully. New surroundings will help you rejuvenate. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take on a new creative project or resurrect one that still holds your interest. Let someone you care about know exactly how you feel and what your intentions are and you will enhance your relationship. Make contractual changes to suit future trends. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do all you can to explore new avenues, meet new people and venture down paths that promise adventure. Love is in the stars and sharing something unique with someone special will send you in a positive direction. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Uncertainty will leave you confused. Keep an open mind and an open heart, but don't refuse to see who is on your team and who isn't. An emotional situation will surface. If handled properly, you will retrieve stability. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Revisit an old skill or service. An extra source of income will come in handy, allowing you more chances to expand your interests and your future endeavors. People from your past must be monitored before you pick up where you left off. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Ask for favors and look at investments that will help you get what you want. Let your powers of persuasion lead the way to victory. If you choose wisely, you will be the one delegating the work, not doing it. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate and progressive. You are charming, engaging and entertaining.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		7			2		
2		3		8				
	6		4					7
8		6						
	1						7	
						9		1
3					2		1	
				1		4		5
		7			3		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	5	6	9	7	1	2	4
2	4	6	1	3	8	5	9	7
7	9	1	2	4	5	6	3	8
6	1	2	4	8	9	7	5	3
4	7	3	5	1	2	9	8	6
8	5	9	7	6	3	2	4	1
5	2	4	3	7	1	8	6	9
9	3	7	8	5	6	4	1	2
1	6	8	9	2	4	3	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KEEP IN STYLE Solution: 7 letters

P	T	P	A	T	T	E	R	N	S	L	E	D	O	M
D	U	E	U	E	Z	I	S	T	R	I	K	S	S	G
E	R	L	K	R	E	H	C	A	P	A	S	W	T	N
S	E	E	L	C	S	S	E	T	O	T	E	R	O	I
I	P	S	S	O	A	E	N	L	R	A	E	S	O	H
G	P	E	W	S	V	J	C	I	T	H	Ⓚ	H	B	T
N	O	H	O	C	E	E	H	E	T	E	Ⓒ	O	S	O
E	H	S	O	A	S	S	R	A	K	C	Ⓞ	E	N	L
R	S	A	N	S	T	S	E	S	C	M	Ⓢ	S	A	C
S	T	S	C	H	S	L	R	T	A	I	A	U	G	I
S	E	A	O	T	T	A	E	N	S	N	T	I	I	R
W	R	B	O	G	A	E	P	A	N	I	I	T	D	B
F	B	B	L	N	H	D	P	P	W	D	N	X	R	A
Y	A	D	N	E	L	B	A	N	O	I	H	S	A	F
S	K	C	A	L	S	K	D	T	G	M	I	E	C	M

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Apache, Blend, Boots, Cardigans, Cloak, Clothing, Coats, Cool, Dapper, Deals, Designers, Dresses, Fabric, Fashionable, Gowns, Hats, Hobby, Jacket, Jeans, Leather, Lengths, Maxi, Midi, Mini, Models, Pants, Patterns, Pullovers, Purse, Sabots, Sack, Sashes, Satin, Scarf, Sew, Shirts, Shoes, Shopper, Size, Skirts, Slacks, Sock, Suit, Sweaters, Swoon, Totes, Vests

Yesterday's Answer: Congested

THE COLLECTED WORDWORD, Volume 4 — Sometimes a letter popped the wrong way makes a statement. Here are 94 funny, plus 5 postage-increase-worthy letter blunders. $18.95 each. To order, send a check or money order payable to Tribune Media Services, Inc. to: TMS, Dept. 0923, 4050 Lee Vance View, Colorado Springs, CO 80916 or call toll-free 800-638-3368. Or order online at tmsreprints.com. Please allow 4–6 weeks for delivery. Offer valid in the U.S. only.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANT TO BUY

We wish to buy mileage — United/ Star Alliance. Please call 234-6533.

EMPLOYMENT

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $5.55/hr. At least 3 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

---

1 Chef/Restaurant Manager (Korean and Western cuisine): $5.55-8.20/hr. At least 5 years' experience in Korean and Western cuisine with license in both required. High school diploma or equivalent required. Email resume to star@hanmisaipan.com.

Alexander Inc. is looking for an Accountant. Must have at least 5 years of experience. Knowledge in QuickBooks & MS Excel is an advantage. Call 234-5117.

1-Data Encoder/Office Clerk. Salary $5.55p/h. 2-3 yrs exp. Email resume to LP Accounting at loidapark@yahoo.com.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600sq. ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

TC Catering

Job Vacancy Announcement

1-Accountant/Bookkeeper. Salary $5.55 p/h. Accounting Graduate or 4 years College from a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. 5 years or more work experience. Able to prepare payroll, CNMI & Federal Taxes, and Bank Reconciliation. Must have knowledge in Peachtree Accounting System and Microsoft applications.

1-Cook. Salary $5.55 p/h. 5 years working experience required. Must have knowledge in Food Processing and able to cook different varieties of International Cuisine. Knowledge in food safety. Able to work flexible hours, days, holidays and weekends.

Interested applicants may send resume to TC Catering at P.O. Box 8070 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950

CHINESE GOODS INC.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Closing Date: April 19, 2013

(4) COOK

- Minimum of 2 years experience
- Knowledge in Chinese Cuisine
- Flexible work hours/schedule

Please email resume to PO Box 502351, Saipan, MP 96950

GPPC, INC.

(2) Construction Manager

Rate : $2,100.00 to $ 2,650.00 per month

Must be a college graduate or minimum 5 year's experience as Construction Manager. With knowledge how to plan, direct, or coordinate, usually through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation. Includes managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

The above position will be closed on April 12, 2013. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Xue, Jianjun dba Beauty Salon (HOLLYWOOD NAIL ART)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Nail Designer. Salary $5.55 p/h. 5 years working experience in Nail Art. Chinese, Japanese, and Korean speaking preferred.

Interested U.S. Citizen applicants, please call 285-8629

LOST MEN's WALLET

Just need to return the ID's and documents inside
NO NEED TO RETURN CASH

NO Questions asked!

Please call
Mr. Meliton Ramos Jr.
at 234-3284 or send
to P.O. Box 5537 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG has an opening for the following:

- Admin Assistant
- Cook
- Cook Helper

Interested individuals may pick up an application in the guard station at the front gate.

We are located at Tun Herman pan Road and situated between the American Red Cross and the Historic Prevention Office.

1-Room Attendant

Motivated self-starter, responsible for cleaning up to 17 rooms per shift. Minimum 6 months work experience. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays. Apply at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Position closes 5pm 4/16/13.

OKADA CORPORATION:

OPERATIONS MANAGER/HEAD CHEF (1): Be able to handle business operations as well as kitchen duties to ensure the business efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the business to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must be passionate about food and have broad knowledge in Japanese cuisine centering on Sushi, Soba, Tempura as well as other cultural dishes and different food preparations. Have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-5 year experience. For more information and inquires please come to our office at:

Okada Corporation dba: Okadaya
1F Joeten Commercial Building
Susupe, Saipan

Please no phone calls.
Must apply in person.

WHATZIT Solution: See double

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

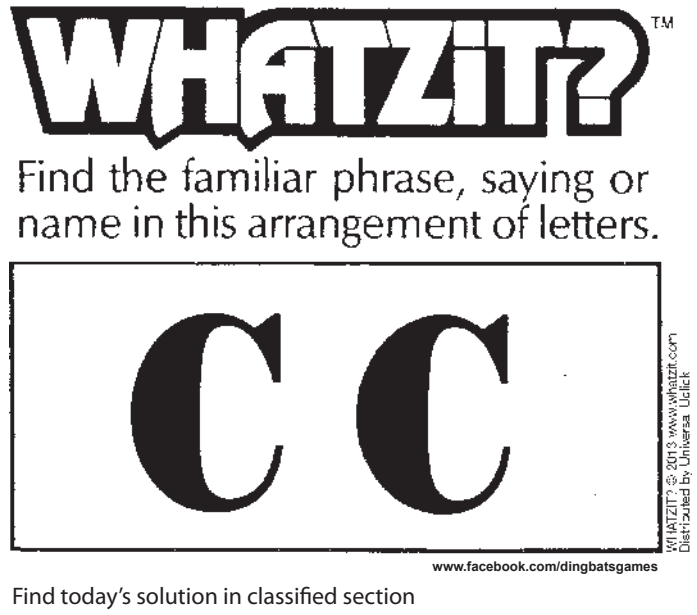
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
C C
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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

UConn women rout Louisville for 8th title

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Geno Auriemma has been chasing Pat Summitt since he started coaching. Now with his eighth national championship, he has finally caught her.

It might not be long before Auriemma stands alone with freshman Breanna Stewart leading the way.

Stewart scored 18 of her 23 points in a dazzling first half and Connecticut won its eighth NCAA title with a 93-60 rout of Louisville on Tuesday night. It was the most lopsided victory in a title game, and it put the Huskies back atop college basketball after missing the game the past two years.

The title tied Auriemma and the Huskies (35-4) with Summitt for the most in women's basketball history. Unlike the Tennessee great, Auriemma has never lost a championship game in eight appearances.

"The only person I compare myself to is Pat Summitt and to be there in that spot with her means a lot to me," Auriemma said. "The fact that I tied Pat Summitt's record puts you in the category of the greatest women's basketball coach that ever lived."

Stewart, his prized freshman, was unstoppable, hitting shots from everywhere on the court to earn Most Outstanding Player honors for the Final Four. She's only the fourth freshman ever to have that honor and first since 1987. Even her father in the stands repeatedly said "wow" as his daughter took the game over and Cardinals men's coach Rick Pitino, in town to cheer on the Louisville women, called her one of the best freshman in basketball.

"This is unbelievable," Stewart said. "This is what we've thought about since the beginning of the season. And now to be here and actually win it, it's a great feeling and I don't think it's going to set in for a while. I just played really confident and stopped thinking. When I second-guess myself, nothing good comes out of that."

After Auriemma cut down the final strand of the net, his team carried him around the court in celebration.

Summitt, who stepped down a year ago and suffers from early-onset dementia, released a statement through her son, Tyler.

"Congratulations to Geno Auriemma and the Connecticut Huskies on a remarkable season and an eighth national title," she said. "Geno is a proven champion and a leader in our game. My best to him, his family, his team and staff."

AP

Connecticut players celebrate as they carry their head coach Geno Auriemma after defeating Louisville 93-60 in the national championship game of the women's Final Four of the NCAA college basketball tournament, Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in New Orleans.

The loss ended an unprecedented tournament run by Louisville. The Cardinals became the first No. 5 seed to make the championship game, pulling off the greatest upset in tournament history when they beat Brittney Griner and Baylor in the regional semifinals. Jeff Walz's team then beat Tennessee in the regional final before topping Cal in the Final Four.

"The run we went on was remarkable and something I'll always remember" Walz said. "We're walking out with our head high and proud of what we've done."

The Cardinals just didn't have enough to beat their Big East foe. Louisville was trying to become just the second school to win both the men's and women's championship in the same season and the first since UConn in 2004. Pitino, fresh off his team's 82-76 win in the title game over Michigan on Monday night, was sitting behind the Cardinals bench, trying to spur on the women's team. He talked to the players at their pregame meal and told them to just enjoy the moment and have fun in the game.

It wasn't to be. Instead, the trip to the Big Easy marked the beginning of the Stewart era.

Sharpshooting from deep or pounding the boards, she had one of the most remarkable runs of any first year player in the history of the NCAA tournament. Stewart finished with 105 points in only five games—she missed the first round rout of Idaho to rest a sore calf—the most by any first-year player since 2000, according to STATS. UConn's Maya Moore held the previous mark with 93 points.

The 6-foot-4 star passed Moore with a neat tip-in with 7:04 left in the first half and wound up with a performance reminiscent of two of the all-time greats. As freshmen, Cheryl Miller guided USC to a title in 1983 and Chamique Holdsclaw led Tennessee to a championship in 1996.

Stewart scored seven points during the pivotal 19-0 run that turned a four-point deficit into a double-digit lead and put the Cardinals in a hole they couldn't climb out of.

"We rushed a lot, we started to panic a bit," Walz said. "They started executing."

Stewart later swooped in for an incredible offensive rebound that she put back to make it 39-23. The Huskies led 48-29 at the half as Stewart had 18 points; the 19-point advantage fell four points short of the championship record set by Tennessee against Louisiana Tech in 1998.

UConn dashed any hopes of a Louisville comeback going on a 12-2 run after the Cardinals had cut its deficit to 60-44. The only question over the last 10 minutes would be whether this was the biggest blowout in title game history, and the Huskies easily surpassed Tennessee's 23-point win over Louisiana Tech in 1987.

The Huskies beat Louisville by 22 points in the 2009 title game. Louisville was trying to become the lowest seed to win a NCAA championship on the women's side. Villanova, as an eight seed, was the lowest ever to win it on the men's side back in 1985.

UConn hit 13 of its 26 3-pointers, including four by senior Kelly Faris, who finished with 16 points, nine rebounds and six assists.

The Schimmel sisters who really carried Louisville in the tournament had a rough go against UConn. Shoni Schimmel missed her first six shots and finished with just seven points on 3 of 15 shooting. Jude Schimmel was saddled with three fouls in the first half.

"We made a miracle run in this tournament and will remember that the rest of their lives," said Sara Hammond, who led Louisville with 15 points.

With UConn's victory, the Big East conference won a ninth national championship. The conference, which will split apart after this season, has been the most dominant in women's basketball over the past decade.

And having both teams in the championship game was a fitting end to its current configuration. Neither team will be in the new Big East next season. Both will be in the American Athletic Conference. Louisville will then head to the ACC the year after.

This was the first of UConn's championships when the Huskies didn't win a regular season or Big East tournament championship, making it a little bit sweeter for seniors Faris, Caroline Doty and Heather Buck. UConn's other national championships came in 1995, 2000, 2002-04, 2009-10.

McLemore, Oladipo, Ledo declare for NBA draft

Ben McLemore is one and done at Kansas. Ricky Ledo is none and done with Providence.

McLemore, Kansas' talented freshman guard, was among several underclassmen who wasted little time in declaring for the NBA draft on Tuesday, the day after the college season ended.

Ledo, Providence, R.I., native, practiced with the Friars this season but never played because he failed to qualify academically. Practice was enough, apparently, to make him a possible first-round pick.

Indiana All-American Victor Oladipo announced he was giving up his senior season to enter the draft. New Mexico's Tony Snell also announced he was going pro.

The father of Louisville guard Russ Smith, who helped the Cardinals win a national title by beating Michigan on Monday night, says his son will also enter the draft.

In Lawrence, Kan., Jayhawks coach Bill Self said he's known for a while it was time for the 6-foot-6 McElmore to go.

"Ben kept telling us in February, `Don't worry about getting anybody else. I'm coming back,'" Self recalled. "I said, `Yeah, right. You want to make a public announcement?' ... If he told me he wanted to come back, I would have told him, `We need to look at this again.'"

That's because McLemore's stock couldn't be much higher.

The second-team All-American is expected to be a lottery pick in June after breaking the Jayhawks' freshman scoring record held by Danny Manning. McLemore averaged nearly 16 points for a team that went 31-6 and won a share of its ninth straight Big 12 championship.

"My mom, we talked, my family, talked to the coaches, and I made the decision that I'm going to enter the NBA draft," said McLemore, who had several family members on hand at Allen Fieldhouse.

"I think it's the best opportunity to help me and my family out," he said, "and even as a kid, that's what I wanted to do. I have an opportunity to provide for my family."

McLemore was forced to redshirt last season when he was declared a partial qualifier by the NCAA, but he made the most of his only season in Lawrence. With a dizzying array of dunks, a silky smooth outside shot and a boyish grin, he quickly became one of the school's top players.

Ledo, another 6-6 guard, said "he could not pass up this opportunity to enter the NBA draft now."

In September, the NCAA ruled that Ledo could not compete in games for the Friars in 2012-13, but he did practice and work out with the team during the season. So the NBA scouts came to practice to get a look at Ledo.

A top-25 high school prospect, Ledo spent time at four different programs in five years of high school before receiving a scholarship from Providence.

Oladipo made his announcement at a news conference in Assembly Hall in Bloomington, Ind. He was the Hoosiers' second-leading scorer, averaging 13.6 points to go along with 6.3 rebounds per game.

He's on target to graduate in May.

Indiana is still awaiting word on whether sophomore center Cody Zeller will return or head to the NBA. He is expected to decide as early as Wednesday.

Smith's NBA future isn't as clear. He averaged 18.9 points as a junior this season, including 23.3 in six NCAA tournament games, but is listed at 6-foot and 165 pounds.

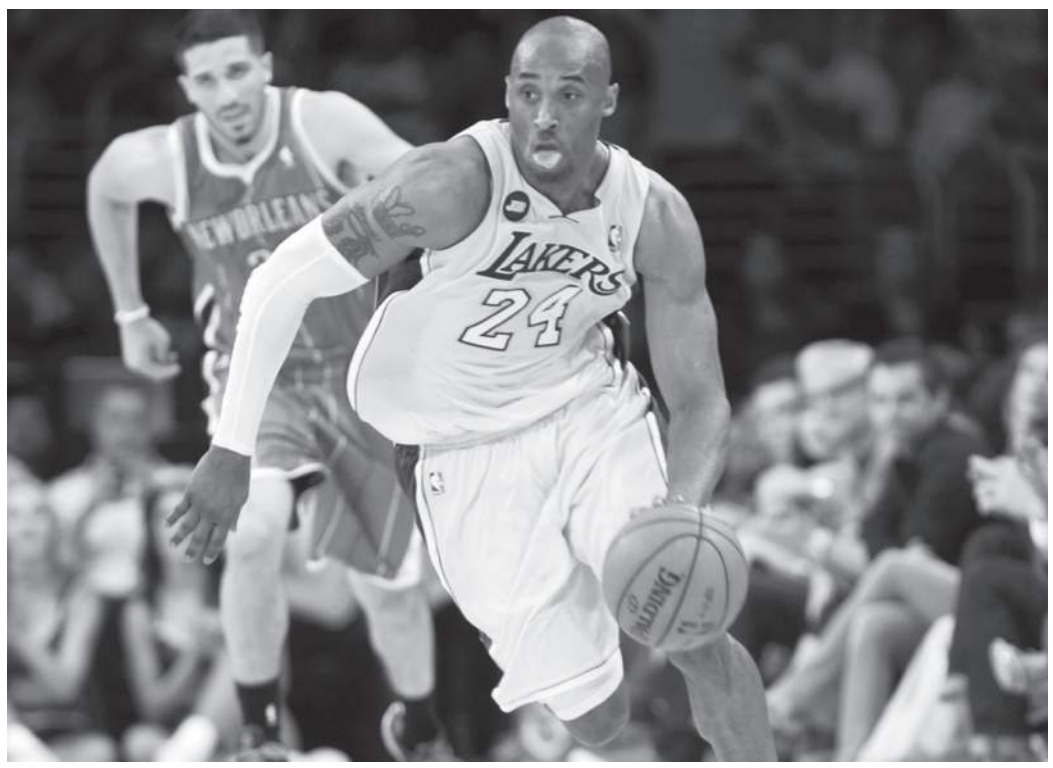
Snell averaged 12.5 points per game this past season and hit a team-high 64 3-pointers. He was the Mountain West tournament MVP. ***(AP)***

Lakers beat Hornets 104-96 to stay in hunt

In Los Angeles (AP)— Kobe Bryant fueled a desperate rally with 23 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, and Los Angeles beat New Orleans to keep its slim playoff hopes alive.

Pau Gasol had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Dwight Howard added 19 points to help the Lakers tie Utah for the eighth and final playoff berth in the West. The Jazz lost to Oklahoma City earlier in the evening, but they hold the tiebreaker over the Lakers, who have four regular-season games left.

Eric Gordon scored 22 points, making 10 of 11 free throws, before fouling out in the final seconds to lead five Hornets in double figures. Anthony Davis added 18 points and 14 rebounds, Ryan Anderson had 14 points, and Greivis Vasquez had 11 points and 11 assists.



AP
Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) against the New Orleans Hornets in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Knicks 120, Wizards 99

In New York, the New York Knicks romped to their first Atlantic Division title since 1994, getting 36 points from Carmelo Anthony and beating the Washington Wizards for their 13th straight victory.

Anthony put this one away with 21 points during the Knicks' 37-point third quarter that gave them a 95-71 lead. The NBA's scoring leader added eight rebounds and six assists while becoming the first Knick since newly elected Hall of Famer Bernard King with five straight 35-point games.

John Wall scored 33 points for the Wizards.

Heat 94, Bucks 83

In Miami, LeBron James scored 28 points, Udonis Haslem had 10 points and 15 rebounds and Miami moved a step closer to wrapping up home-court advantage in the playoffs with a win over Milwaukee.

The Heat tied a franchise single-season record by winning for the 61st time, getting there with five games remaining. Miami needs only one more win or one San Antonio loss to clinch the top overall seed for the entirety of the playoffs.

Brandon Jennings scored 30 points for the Bucks, who will likely meet Miami in the first round.

Thunder 90, Jazz 80

In Salt Lake City, Russell Westbrook scored 25 points, Kevin Durant added 21 and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Utah Jazz 90-80 on Tuesday night.

The Thunder continued their push to claim the top overall seed in the West, while the Jazz fell into a tie with the Lakers for the final playoff spot in the West. Utah own the tiebreaker over the Lakers.

Paul Millsap's dunk pulled Utah within four, but Durant hit two free throws and Westbrook stole the inbound pass to seal it for the Thunder.

Mo Williams led the Jazz with 19 points.

Pacers 99, Cavaliers 94

In Indianapolis, George Hill scored 27 points and David West added 15 to help Indiana rally from a 20-point deficit for a win over Cleveland.

Paul George chipped in with 14 points, Lance Stephenson had 13 and Tyler Hansbrough 12 for the Pacers, who can clinch the No. 3 seed in the East with a win over the Brooklyn Nets on Friday.

Kyrie Irving scored 29 points and Indiana native Tyler Zeller had 18 before fouling out midway through the fourth quarter for Cleveland, which allowed the Pacers to break off a 25-4 run in the fourth for a 93-92 lead.

Grizzlies 94, Bobcats 75

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley scored 20 points, Zach Randolph had 11 points and 13 rebounds, and Memphis beat Charlotte.

Memphis won its 13th straight at home, tying a franchise record with its 31st home win.

Kemba Walker scored 19 points to lead the Bobcats, and Gerald Henderson had 13.

Nets 104, 76ers 83

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 29 points, and Reggie Evans added 17 points and 24 rebounds as Brooklyn firmly held its ground in the East with a victory over Philadelphia.

Deron Williams and Joe Johnson had 11 points apiece for the Nets, who began the day with a two-game lead over Chicago for the No. 4 seed and home-court advantage in the first round.

Nick Young had 18 points and Jrue Holiday scored 15 for the Philadelphia.

Warriors 105, Timberwolves 89

In Oakland, California, Klay Thompson scored 30 points, Stephen Curry added 24 points and 10 assists and Golden State clinched a playoff berth with a rout of Minnesota.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 15 points and reserve Chase Budinger had 17 points for the depleted Timberwolves, who were outshot 43 to 37 percent. Ricky Rubio missed all 10 shots from the floor to go with six assists and five rebounds as Minnesota watched the Warriors celebrate something it had hoped to accomplish this season.

Raptors 101, Bulls 98

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points and Rudy Gay added 19 as Toronto beat Chicago.

Toronto allowed a 15-point lead to dwindle to four at halftime but regrouped in the third quarter, getting it up to 16. The Raptors then hung on after the lead got down to two near the end.

Jimmy Butler led Chicago with a career-high 28 points and Nate Robinson scored 22.

Rockets 101, Suns 98

In Houston, Jermaine O'Neal was called for goaltending on James Harden's last-second 3-point attempt and Houston beat Phoenix.

Harden scored 33 points and Omer Asik tied his career high with 22 rebounds for the Rockets, who clinched a playoff berth when Utah lost to Oklahoma City.

On the final play, Harden dribbled down the clock and shot his 3 from the wing. It bounced high off the rim and O'Neal tipped it as it came down, just after the buzzer sounded. Referees huddled on the court, then reviewed the play and ruled it the winning basket, setting off a wild celebration.

Luis Scola scored 28 points for the Suns, who have lost 10 in a row.

Yankees hit 5 home runs, clobber Indians, 14-1

CLEVELAND (AP)— Robinson Cano hit one of New York's five homers and drove in five runs, Andy Pettitte pitched seven solid innings and the Yankees romped to a 14-1 win Tuesday night over the Cleveland Indians, who had starter Carlos Carrasco ejected from his first appearance since 2011.

The 40-year-old Pettitte (2-0) allowed one run and five hits in his second strong start.

Tigers 7, Blue Jays 3

In Detroit, AL MVP Miguel Cabrera hit his first homer of the season and drove in four runs, left fielder Don Kelly made a home run-robbing catch and the Detroit Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Blue Jays, who spent millions during the winter to upgrade their roster, fell to 2-5 for their worst start since 2004.

Rangers 6, Rays 1

In Arlington, Texas, Nick Tepesch pitched into the eighth inning in his major league debut, Lance Berkman had a key two-run single among three hits and the Texas Rangers beat the Tampa Bay Rays.

Tepesch retired 12 straight batters before hesitating to pick up a slow roller from Kelly Johnson that went for a one-out single in the eighth. The 24-year-old right-hander left to a standing ovation after Desmond Jennings followed with his second double of the game.

Royals 7, Twins 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jeremy Guthrie won his career-best seventh straight decision, dating to last season, and Alcides Escobar had three hits and an RBI as the Kansas City Royals beat the Minnesota Twins.

The Royals, who had not scored in the first two innings in their first seven games, sent nine to the plate in a five-run first. Mike Pelfrey (1-1) gave up hits to the first five batters he faced.

Athletics 9, Angels 5

In Anaheim, California, pinch-hitter John Jaso had a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning, and the Oakland Athletics blew a four-run lead before rallying to beat the Los Angeles Angels in the majors' final home opener.

Brandon Moss had three hits and drove in four runs, delivering an early two-run single before adding a two-run homer after Jaso's shot. Coco Crisp also hit his fourth homer for the A's, who have won six straight after an 0-2 start.

Astros 16, Mariners 9

In Seattle, Jose Altuve drove in four runs and hit one of Houston's five homers, and the Astros broke out of their offensive slump against the Seattle Mariners.

After totaling nine runs during a six-game losing streak, the Astros scored nine in two innings and won for the first time since opening night. The smallest crowd in Safeco Field history (10,745) saw the Astros batter rookie starter Brandon Maurer (0-2) and continue their outburst against reliever Kameron Loe. By the time Loe was replaced after the third inning, the Astros led 11-0 and had 13 hits.

Braves 3, Marlins 2

In Miami, Kris Medlen allowed only an unearned run in seven innings Tuesday night, and the Atlanta Braves earned their fifth consecutive victory by beating the punchless Miami Marlins.

The Braves improved to 7-1, their best start since 2007. The Marlins fell to 1-7 with their fourth consecutive defeat, and they're off to their worst start since the 1998 team began the season 1-11. Evan Gattis hit his second homer and Justin Upton doubled home a run.

Phillies 8, Mets 3

In Philadelphia, Michael Young and Ryan Howard homered, Cliff Lee came within one out of a complete game and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the New York Mets.

John Mayberry Jr. also went deep for Philadelphia and Young had three hits, missing the cycle by a double.

Padres 9, Dodgers 3

In San Diegoi, Will Venable homered and hit a bases-loaded triple for the San Diego Padres, who rebounded from a dreadful six-game trip to win their home opener against the rival Los Angeles Dodgers.

Venable tied his career high with four RBIs. He homered in the first and his two-out triple highlighted a five-run eighth against three Dodgers relievers. The Padres sent 11 batters to the plate that inning, five of whom walked.

Cubs 6, Brewers 3

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Scott Hairston had a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and David DeJesus added a two-run single, lifting the Chicago Cubs over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Carlos Marmol (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth. Kyuji Fujikawa worked a scoreless ninth for his second save, stranding two runners when he got Jonathan Lucroy to pop out.

Cardinals 5, Reds 1

In St. Louis, Lance Lynn (1-0) struck out 10 in six sharp innings and rookie Matt Adams connected for his first career pinch-hit homer as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Cincinnati Reds.

Reds starter Bronson Arroyo (1-1) retired the first 15 batters. The Cardinals broke through in the sixth, with Adams hitting a two-run homer and Allen Craig and Carlos Beltran also driving in runs.

Pirates 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Garrett Jones had three hits and two RBIs, Starling Marte drove in two runs and scored twice, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Arizona Diamondbacks for their first winning streak of the season.

Pittsburgh has snapped out of its offensive funk in the desert, winning the first two games of the series by scoring 11 runs—three more than the first six games combined.

Giants 9, Rockies 6

In San Francisco, Angel Pagan hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning to cap San Francisco's rally from a four-run deficit and the Giants went on to beat the Colorado Rockies for the eighth straight time.

Brandon Crawford hit a three-run homer to start the comeback and Hunter Pence had a pair of RBI singles for the Giants, who have won the first two games of the series.

Nationals 8, White Sox 7

In Washington, Adam LaRoche ended an 0-for-15 start to the season with homers in consecutive at-bats, Jayson Werth and Ian Desmond also homered, and the Washington Nationals opened an early interleague series by edging the Chicago White Sox.

Werth and LaRoche hit two-run shots off Jake Peavy (1-1) in the sixth, an inning after Desmond went deep. LaRoche added a solo homer off Matt Thornton in the eighth.

Pacquiao fight could be in Macau or Singapore

BOXING

Manny Pacquiao may meet an old foe in a new place in September.

Promoter Bob Arum said he is trying to put together a fifth fight between Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez and shopping it to casinos in Macau and Singapore. He said Saturday night at the Brandon Rios-Mike Alvarado fight that the bout would likely be at one of the Venetian hotel-casinos in Macau or Singapore.

"The thing we're waiting on is which one of their hotels they want to do it at," Arum said.

Marquez would be the most likely opponent for Pacquiao, though Arum indicated earlier that Timothy Bradley—who won a disputed decision over Pacquiao last year—is another possibility.

Marquez knocked Pacquiao out in the sixth round in December, flattening the Filipino fighter with a right hand that left him face down on the canvas for 2 minutes. It was the first win for Marquez in four fights between the two rivals.

If Pacquiao meets Marquez, it could be held far from the Las Vegas Strip, where they fought all four of their fights. The MGM Grand hotel would ordinarily figure to be the host for the bout, but the hotel reportedly is holding a September date for Floyd Mayweather Jr., assuming he beats Robert Guerrero at the hotel May 4.

Arum is in Macau this week for the fight card Saturday night at the Venetian featuring two-time Olympic gold medalist Zou Shiming of China in his pro debut. ***(www.inquirer.net)***

QUALIFIED

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(13.70 seconds). Three other U18 runners joined the 100m qualifying run, but missed the standard time. Reylynn Sapong only clocked in at 13.94 seconds, Riella Ichuo posted 14.14 seconds, and Zarinae Sapong timed in at 14.20 seconds.

In the boys U18 100m run trials, all five participants failed to meet the qualifying time (11.70 seconds). Santy timed in at 11.76 seconds to top the qualifier and beat Jesus Rabauliman (11.90 seconds), Hughhen Cholymay (12.11 seconds), Edgem Bedania (12.32 seconds), and Nakashima Nakashima (13.28 seconds).

There was also trials for the 200m with only Abrams making the grade with her 26.61 seconds. OAA set the qualifying time for the girls U18 200m at 28 seconds. In the men's open, all runners missed hitting the qualifying mark, including the fastest participant—Ngirngongor—who recorded only 24.01 seconds, more than .30 of a second behind the 23.30 seconds standard.

Others who joined the 200m trials were Kenty (25.75 seconds), Santy (24.45 seconds), Rabauliman (25.45 seconds), Bedania (25.36 seconds), Nakashima (27.68 seconds), Donald Mendiola (26.86 seconds), and Cholymay (25.79 seconds).

In the 1,500 trials, Jesse James and Michael Mancao joined the men's open and U18 age group. James tallied 4:48.01, failing to meet the 4:20 requirement, while Mancao also missed the U18 grade (4:30), as he only recorded 4:54.91.

In the long jump, Iguel topped the qualifier with his 5.93m (second attempt), but missed the required mark (6.00m). Iguel defeated Michael Mancao (5.23m), Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel (5.12m), Kenty (4.72m), and Ed Jim (4.57m).

In the girls U18, Abrams qualified with her third attempt (4.43m), as the standard mark was set at 4.40m. Reylynn and Zarinae Sapong missed the grade after logging only 3.90m and 3.80m, respectively.

In the shot put event, men's open, 2011 qualifier Sylvan Rangamar ruled the trials with his 10.04, but failed to gain slot on the team, as the standard requirement was 12.50m. Peter Camacho and Mendiola also failed to quality with their 9.54m and 8.27m, respectively, while Dolores Rangamar also missed the target (9.50m) after posting 8.83m on her third attempt.

The Rangamars—Dolores and daughter Lei—also fell short in the discus trials after submitting 25.46m and 21.33m, respectively, way behind the required 30m. In the men's open, Sylvan Rangamar still reigned supreme with his 28.81m, but the standard was set at 36m. John Nekaifes also joined the trial and faltered two with his 23.98m, while Mendiola and Camacho suffered the same fate after tallying 23.27m and 20.60m, respectively.

Qualifiers resume today

Meanwhile, trials for the 100, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1,500m, shotput, discus, javelin, and long jump will be held today for U18 division. Records made in today's qualifiers for the high school and junior high divisions in the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships will be considered for the Oceania meet and two other off-island events—the IAAF World Youth Championships and 2013 IAAF World Championships.

The 2013 Oceania Area Championships will be held in Papeete, Tahiti, from June 3 to 15 with Northern Marianas Athletics planning to send six to eight athletes to the annual meet.

The youth competition, which will be held in Donetsk, Ukraine, is set from July 10 to 14, while the world championships, which will take place in Moscow, Russia, will run from Aug. 10 to 18.

For more information about the qualifiers, contact Elias Rangamar at 989-5225 or send email to elias-rangamar@hotmail.com.

MP UNITED

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time Valenzuela connected for the lopsided victory.

Another hat-trick was made in the second boys U15 game with Daniel Lim delivering for MP United. He nailed his first goal in the 39th minute to tie the match after Matansa scored first off David Mafnas' shot 20 minutes earlier.

Wataru Tajima then broke the deadlock nine minutes into the second half and MP United never looked back from thereon, as Lim drilled two more goals (63rd and 79th).

GIRLS U15
Tan Holdings 2, Shirley's 0

Over at the Hopwood Junior High School Field last Saturday, Tan Holdings was also victorious in the girls U15 division after shutting out Shirley's FC.

Chloe Salvosa put Tan Holdings on the board with her goal in the 22nd minute, while Mary Kay Alferos nailed the other goal also in the first half after finding the back of the net 12 minutes later.

Matansa 7, MP United 1

In the second game, Matansa had a walk in the park against MP United to remain undefeated this season.

Angelica Sally made a hat-trick, while sister Lyka added two goals. Lizann Deleon Guerrero and Marcilyn Welson chipped in one apiece for Matansa, while Gillian Villagomez scored the lone goal for MP United.

Angelica Sally was right on target at the get-go, drilling her first goal in the second minute. Deleon Guerrero and Lyka Sally then teamed up for back-to-back goals for Matansa in a span of a minute (14th and 15th) to anchor the team's breakaway before Villagomez stopped the bleeding for MP United with her goal in the 20th. Matansa went on to take a 4-1 halftime lead, as Welson made it to the scoreboard, too, in the 32nd.

Angelica Sally was not done yet and dropped two straight goals in the second half (56th and 66th), while Lyka gave Matansa its last goal one minute after her sister completed the hat-trick.

BOYS U18
MP United 3, Tan Holdings 1

Back at the Oleai pitch last Saturday, MP United downed Tan Holdings in the lone boys U18 tiff.

MP United drew goals from three different players to post its third straight win over Tan Holdings. Tanapon Unsa put MP United in the board right into the first minute, while Jake Lee gave the team its second goal in the 12th minute for their 2-0 advantage at the break.

After going scoreless in the second half, Tan Holdings sorted things out on offense and managed to end the spell in the 61st minute off Sean Perez's goal. However, MP United would not be denied, as Frank Jeon made the insurance goal nine minutes later.

THEA

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Lopez in the last two years, will be defending her crown against four other fellow junior players in the second and final week of the competition. The Saipan Southern High School student will begin her title defense on Saturday against the winner of the Carol Lee-Negahr Rastguiy match on Friday. A win on Saturday will move Minor to the finals against the victor of the game between Mikayla Lopez and Isabel Heras, who will also collide on Friday.

Only two women's singles divisions will be played this weekend with the 3.0 category drawing seven entries. The list includes Flor Jones, who got a bye in the first round and will battle the winner of the Antonio Reyes-Chieko Nagao duel on Saturday afternoon. Also on the list are Malika Miyawaki and Caitlin Tinney, who will square off this Friday and Sally Hwang and Marivic Rosario, who are also set to play their first game on the same day.

Meanwhile, the men' singles will have three divisions: Open, 4.0, and 3.0.

Last year's finalist Bobby Cruz headlines the men's open cast and is seeded first in the draw, along with CNMI coach Jeff Race. Also entered in the men's open field are Min Dong Lee and Tiberius Mocanu, who will meet on Friday for the right to face Cruz in the semifinals. The other battle for a semis slot on Friday will feature junior players Rafael Jones and Moris Villanueva with the winner challenging Race on Saturday evening.

In the men's 4.0, it will be a round-robin contest among junior player Luther Lizama and veterans Gary Ramsey and Eli Buenaventura. Lizama will face Lizama and Buenaventura on Saturday, while the two veteran players will duel on Sunday.

The men's 3.0 singles has five entries with Dong Gu Gyon earning an opening round bye. He will play his first game on Saturday afternoon against the winner of the Jeong Ho Kim-Don Castillo match on Saturday morning. The other pairing on Saturday has Osaky Keller squaring off against Timothy Park.

Two more events will be played this weekend with PIC holding doubles competition for girls and boys U12.

Five pairs will fight for the girls U12 doubles tiara. Jireh Warren will team up with Asia Rauleerson and meet sisters Conatsu and Coume Kaga in the quarterfinals on Friday with the victors dueling Carol Lee and Tania Tan in the semis on Saturday. The other semis pairing has Ami Tsukagoshi and Mimi Sakano battling Julia Ishikawa and Miyawaki.

In the boys U12, a round-robin competition will be implemented among the tandems of Robbie Schorr and Joshua Abragan, Michael Jones and Ken Song, and Haruya Eda and Vincent Tudela.

TIGER

From Page 28

this might not be a good year to bet against him.

"I feel comfortable with every aspect of my game," Woods said.

Woods could have been talking about his life, too. More than once during his pre-Masters news conference he did, especially when speaking of the joys of fatherhood and how he can teach his children the basics of golf in the backyard short game complex at his South Florida mansion.

Lindsey Vonn wasn't mentioned at all, but she has to figure in all this newfound bliss, too. Just a few weeks ago, Woods and the Olympic skiing champion announced they were in a relationship in a series of photos both posted on social media sites.

And while Woods is normally taciturn to a fault in interviews, he laughed, had a few funny lines, and was more introspective than usual in the press center on Tuesday.

"I think it's just a balance, a balance in life," Woods said. "I think that's what you're seeing."

Whether it all translates into another green jacket is anyone's guess. Golf is a funny game even for Tiger Woods, and the tricky greens of Augusta National have derailed his high hopes before.

He won four Masters in a nine-year stretch after breaking through with his historic win in 1997, but he hasn't celebrated here since 2005.

This is a Masters he badly—almost desperately—needs, and not just to completely validate his comeback from injuries and marriage scandal.

The clock is ticking on his chase of the Nicklaus record of 18 major championships—Woods has 14—and the player who once held all four major titles at once has now gone almost five years without winning even one.

He's 37 now, not an advanced age by any stretch for a golfer. But Woods has been playing the Masters for half his life—this will be his 19th time competing—and as each year goes by another opportunity slips away.

There's a 14-year-old from China who wasn't even born when Woods won in 1997 in the field this week and if Woods had to be reminded about time passing by, he was by a question about what age he would entertain becoming a ceremonial starter in the Masters like Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

"Let me just try to get to 40 first," he said.

Woods is still the No. 1 player in the world—taking over from Rory McIlroy after winning at Bay Hill earlier this year—but his drought at the majors is more often the subject of conversation than the fact he has rebuilt his game and is winning again.

That's partly his own fault, since he has focused almost singularly on them ever since he was growing up in Southern California with a chart of Nicklaus major championship wins on his wall.

"It took Jack a while to get to 18, all the way until he was 46 years old," Woods said. "So there's plenty of opportunities for me."

The first of those opportunities begins Thursday morning on a course he both knows and loves. Woods is a player who tends to win in bunches on certain courses and, aside from last year's lackluster performance, Augusta National usually brings out the best in him.

His winning drought in majors has been long, but not terribly surprising considering he had to rebuild a knee, a swing and a personal life after winning the U.S. Open on one leg at Torrey Pines.

Woods cautioned repeatedly that at least the knee and swing were a work in progress, but golf at this level also requires a clear head and the kind of focus that made Woods so fearsome in his younger days.

The Masters is always huge because of what it represents and because it is the first major of the year. For Woods, though, the stakes are even higher this year, if only because he needs to demonstrate to himself that he can still win at the highest level.

The man he's chasing understands that better than anyone.

"It's been a while," Nicklaus said. "He's going to have to figure it out. But I think if he figures it out here, it will be a great boost for him. If he doesn't figure it out here, after the spring he's had, I think it will be a lot tougher for him."

For now, Nicklaus is the greatest golfer ever, and until Woods catches him the title is still his.

This week could say a lot about how long or fruitful that chase will be.

Sun Palace Hotel Singles & Doubles Badminton Competition 2013

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marylyn Montano leans back for a return during a game in the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 last month at the TSL Sports Complex.

Merlie Tolentino, left, and Cristy Villaflor team up for a return to Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno.

Ezekiel Macario makes a return from the back-court during his and Kanata Omori's doubles game against Puy Macario and Joseph Santos.

Chris Hilario returns to Son Jae Ok.

Jen Savellano receives the serve of Cris Obaldo.

Cris Obaldo stretches for a return to Jen Savellano.

Kanata Omori receives a low shot.

Cheng Saturno makes a backhand return.

Joseph Santos serves.

A men's C singles player in action in the elimination round.

UConn women rout Louisville for 8th title

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Lakers beat Hornets 104-96 to stay in hunt

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3 qualified for Oceania track meet

Abrams

Iguel

Race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rachel Abrams, Jesus Iguel, and Gabrielle Race earned slots to the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2013 Oceania Area Championships after making the grade in a qualifying tournament late last month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Race qualified for the 3,000m run after clocking in at 12:55.29 in the March 30 qualifier. Oceania Athletics Association has set the qualifying time for the girls U18 3,000m at 13:00.00.

Iguel met the qualifying time (11.30 seconds) in the 100m run after completing the sprint in 10.97 seconds. He finished in the qualifier ahead of three other runners, including 2012 Oceania Area Championships participant Beo Ngirchongor, who missed the standard time after submitting 11.39 seconds. John Santy came in third in the qualifying race with his 11.41 second, while Tanner Kenty logged 12.52 seconds for fourth place.

In the girls U18 100m run trials, Abrams tallied 13.23 seconds, surpassing the qualifying time in her age group

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By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

Is Tiger of old back for the Masters?

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—He's got a swing he can finally trust, a putter that shows flashes of the old magic, and a string of wins to prove that it's all finally coming together.

The superstar girlfriend is an added bonus, though by now so much time has passed that the debate about Tiger Woods revolves around the state of his game, not his personal life.

Winning may not take care of everything, as his latest Nike ad claims. But six wins in his comeback are a confidence-inducing tonic for Woods, and the commercial is certainly more upbeat than the one Nike ran two years ago with his late father ominously asking him what he could have been thinking.

Woods is more upbeat, too, and with good reason. When last seen here a year ago he was kicking clubs, missing putts and muttering to himself about chances gone awry. He didn't break par in four rounds, and left with barely enough prize money to fuel up his private jet.

Now he's a heavy favorite to win his fifth Masters and kick start his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus in the majors. The swagger that has always suited him so well seems to be back, and the way he was talking Tuesday

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MP United, Tan Holdings cruise to wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United and Tan Holdings FC showed no signs of rust after a weeklong break, as they walked away with easy victories against separate foes in the boys U15 division of the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MP United dominated Matansa FC in the second match of the night, 4-1, while Tan Holdings FC whipped Shirley's FC in the curtain-raiser, 5-1

Louie Calayag recorded his first hat-trick of the season to lift Tan Holdings to victory. He scored his first two goals in the first half to put Tan Holdings in the driver's seat. Shirley's was still in contention in the opening frame after drawing a goal from Edward Cordero, but slowly faded away after failing to prevent Calayag, Joshua Galarion, and Chris Valenzuela from attacking their defense in the second half.

Galarion made it a 3-1 lead for Tan Holdings with his goal in the opening minutes of the second frame, while Calayag completed the hat-trick midway in the final half. Tan Holdings continued to be aggressive on offense despite a big lead and this

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Shirley's FC players goes for a header, while a Tan Holdings defender tries to stay on the play during a boys U15 game in the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Thea aims to extend streak in PIC tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor returns to Mikayla Lopez during last year's women's open singles finals in the PIC tournament.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Thea Minor leads the women's open singles participants in the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships, as she guns for an unprecedented sixth straight title when action resumes this weekend at the Pacific Islands Club.

Minor, who started her streak in the PIC tournament in 2008, winning over Fernandez and Matty Buenaventura in the round-robin event five years ago, against Fernandez again in 2009, versus Lydia Tan in 2010, and over Mikayla

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